

CONCORDIA

U N I V E R S I T Y M A G A Z I N E

5 DECADES OF DISCOVERY

HOW CONCORDIA'S RAPID RISE
AS A RESEARCH LEADER
IS REDEFINING THE FUTURE

SUMMER 2025 / FASHION FORWARD / NATURE'S MEDICINE / 50 YEARS OF FIRSTS

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50 YEARS, 50 REMARKABLE ALUMNI

Meet our Great
Concordians



GAME- CHANGING FIRSTS

Learn about 50
things our community
accomplished first
in Montreal, Canada
and the world



5 DECADES OF DISCOVERY

How Concordia's rapid
rise as a research
leader is redefining
the future



FASHION FORWARD

Discover the trends
that shaped student
life from 1974 to today




NATURE'S MEDICINE

Researchers and
alumni highlight
the benefits of
connecting with the
great outdoors

summer 2025 volume 49 number 1
concordia.ca/magazine

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A portrait of Christine Lengvari, a woman with short blonde hair and glasses, smiling. She is wearing a light-colored short-sleeved top with a floral pattern and a gold shawl draped over her left shoulder. The background is a blurred indoor space with yellow walls and glass partitions.

“I am a strong believer in planned giving. To be able to give back to the university now — and into the future — is energizing.”

— Christine Lengvari, BSc 72, made a \$5-million planned gift to Concordia's School of Health in 2024.

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CONCORDIA

Charting what's next

As Concordia's milestone year winds down, we find ourselves at a unique crossroads — celebrating the richness of our past while setting our sights on a vibrant, evolving future.



Over the past year, we've marked 50 years since the merging of our founding institutions with stories that underscore not only how far we've come, but also the promise that lies ahead. This issue helps bring that celebration to a close, while also signalling the beginning of a new way forward.

Like many institutions, we're adapting to challenging circumstances, including a shifting political and economic landscape. As a result, this will be our last printed edition of *Concordia University Magazine*. While we're sad to say goodbye to the physical publication you've held in your hands since 1977, it's not the end. It's simply a transition to new platforms, new possibilities and new ways to share stories that matter.

Our commitment to thoughtful, engaging storytelling remains. Through our web pages, social media, videos and more, we'll continue to spotlight the inspiring alumni, students, researchers, donors and friends who make Concordia what it is.

In keeping with this mission, our current issue underscores just such contributions.

We're proud to feature "5 decades of discovery" (p. 30), our cover story exploring Concordia's rise as a research leader over the past half century. It's a look at the big ideas, impactful discoveries and interdisciplinary approaches that are shaping the future.

"Game-changing firsts" (p. 26) celebrates 50 of the many achievements our community has led in Montreal, Quebec, Canada and the world. You may be surprised to learn how often Concordians are ahead of the curve.

We also step back in time with "Fashion forward" (p. 36), a visual journey through 50 years of student style. From flared denim and leather jackets to flannel shirts and thrifted looks, campus fashion has always reflected the

times, and is a showcase of our students' creativity and individuality.

In "Nature's medicine" (p. 40), we explore the growing body of research that shows how time spent outdoors can support mental health and strengthen our understanding of our environment and those around us.

And our ongoing Great Concordians series (p. 22) continues to highlight some of the extraordinary alumni who have made a mark across disciplines, sectors and borders. These individuals embody our spirit of engagement, innovation and global citizenship.

As we round out our 50th year, our Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen Now also comes to a close. Our university's historic fundraising effort is on track to reach its \$350-million goal for our students, research, services and more. There's still time to help ensure Concordia's continued growth and impact. I invite you to visit concordia.ca/campaign to make a donation and be part of shaping the next 50 years and beyond.

From sharing your stories to joining our festivities in person or online, thank you for celebrating the past five decades with us. We are grateful to count you among our wonderful community of readers around the world, and look forward to sharing more milestones with you soon.

Keep an eye out in your email inbox this fall for your next edition of the magazine.

Until then, I wish you all the best. ■

Marta Samuel, GrDip 10
Editor, *Concordia University Magazine*
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CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

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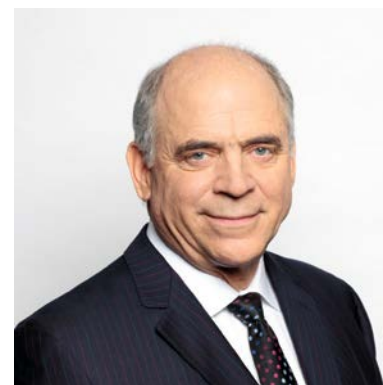
Join the conversation by following
@ConcordiaAlumni on social media.

NEW MICROPROGRAM IN SUSTAINABILITY

A new 15-credit interdisciplinary **Microprogram in Sustainability Principles** will begin in September 2025. Offered by the Loyola College for Diversity and Sustainability, the program is designed to equip students from diverse backgrounds with the critical-thinking skills needed to address environmental and societal challenges. It covers topics like environmental policy, resource management and ethical values, with flexible options for both full-time and part-time study. Open to Canadian citizens and permanent residents, the program also offers a pathway for professionals and non-traditional students to enhance their expertise in these vital areas.

KEY SUPPORT FOR FRANCOPHONE STUDENTS

Launched last year, Concordia's Centre for Francophone Students, or le **Centre pour étudiant·es francophones (CÉF)**, supports students transitioning to studying in English, particularly those who have studied primarily in French. As of fall 2024, one quarter of Concordia's students identify French as their first language. The CÉF provides resources such as writing assistance, orientation events and social activities to help these students succeed. **Sophie Mailloux**, manager of the CÉF, emphasizes, "We want them to know they have a place here at Concordia."



PIERRE FITZGIBBON, FORMER MINISTER FOR ECONOMY, INNOVATION AND ENERGY FOR QUEBEC, HAS JOINED THE ADVISORY BOARD OF CONCORDIA'S VOLT-AGE PROGRAM. HIS EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE IN BOTH THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS WILL HELP SHAPE THE PROGRAM'S STRATEGIC DIRECTION AND ACCELERATE THE TRANSITION TO A SUSTAINABLE-ENERGY FUTURE.

CONCORDIA ANNOUNCED A **PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME AND GIVE1PROJECT TO BOLSTER CYBERSECURITY** IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA. THE INITIATIVE WILL EMPOWER YOUTH IN THE REGION THROUGH MUTUAL LEARNING, EDUCATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING, STRENGTHENING DIGITAL RESILIENCE AND FOSTERING GLOBAL COLLABORATION.

CONCORDIA SOARS IN NATIONAL RESEARCH RANKINGS

Concordia has secured its highest-ever ranking in the 2024 *Canada's Top 50 Research Universities*, placing first in the province of Quebec and fifth nationwide. The university's research income reached \$129.1 million, reflecting a 47.6 per cent growth from the previous year. **President Graham Carr** attributes the success to the "excellence, creativity and determination of our researchers." With a strategic focus on interdisciplinary collaborations and continued support for emerging fields, Concordia's progress reflects its commitment to impactful, real-world innovation.

REDEFINING AI THROUGH INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE

Concordia is **leading the international, multi-institutional Abundant Intelligences research program**, aiming to decolonize artificial intelligence (AI). The initiative challenges the traditional AI approach, which often overlooks Indigenous knowledge systems, and promotes an inclusive, ethical perspective on intelligence. By incorporating Indigenous cultures, languages and sustainable practices, the program aims to create AI technologies that support human flourishing and tackle global challenges. "It's about making room for many kinds of intelligence and ways we might think about it," says lead researcher **Jason Edward Lewis**.



GLENN GEAR, MFA 98, DEBUTED HIS ANIMATED INSTALLATION, *ULITSUAK / MARÉE MONTANTE / RISING TIDE*, ON THE FACADE OF THE MONTREAL MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS. THE PROJECT, A COMBINATION OF INDIGENOUS ARTISTRY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS, ENGAGES WITH THE BUILDING'S ARCHITECTURE TO SPARK REFLECTION ON RISING SEA LEVELS AND THE CONNECTIONS BETWEEN URBANISM AND NATURE.

NATIONAL STANDARD SET WITH STARS GOLD CERTIFICATION

Concordia has become **the first university in Canada to earn a STARS gold rating** under a new, more rigorous framework. Administered by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, STARS evaluates institutions on sustainability performance, including racial equity, social justice, curriculum and operations. This achievement reflects years of progress and a university-wide commitment to sustainability. “This demonstrates our significant progress and shows that we’re ready to meet higher expectations,” says **Manon Raby**, BA 22, MEnv 24, STARS co-ordinator at the Office of Sustainability.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE FRENCH LANGUAGE

Concordia’s **Francofête celebrated the French language with a diverse range of events** from March 10 to 27. The festivities included a sugar shack, a reading competition and a job fair, all part of a goal to promote the French language and to connect the university community through cultural exchanges and discoveries. “It’s an open invitation to share, explore and experience French in a welcoming and engaging atmosphere,” says **Maria Trigueiro**, BA 82, GrDip 85, manager of Concordia’s Réussir en français.

CONCORDIA STUDENTS SUPPORTED EIGHTH GRADERS AT KAHNAWÀ:KE SURVIVAL SCHOOL IN CREATING THE VOICES OF KAHNAWÀ:KE PODCAST, A COLLABORATION BASED IN THE DEPARTMENT OF JOURNALISM’S INSTITUTE FOR INCLUSIVE, INVESTIGATIVE AND INNOVATIVE JOURNALISM (I3J). THE TWO-EPIISODE SERIES EXPLORES THEMES OF COMMUNITY MYTHS AND LEGENDS, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE.



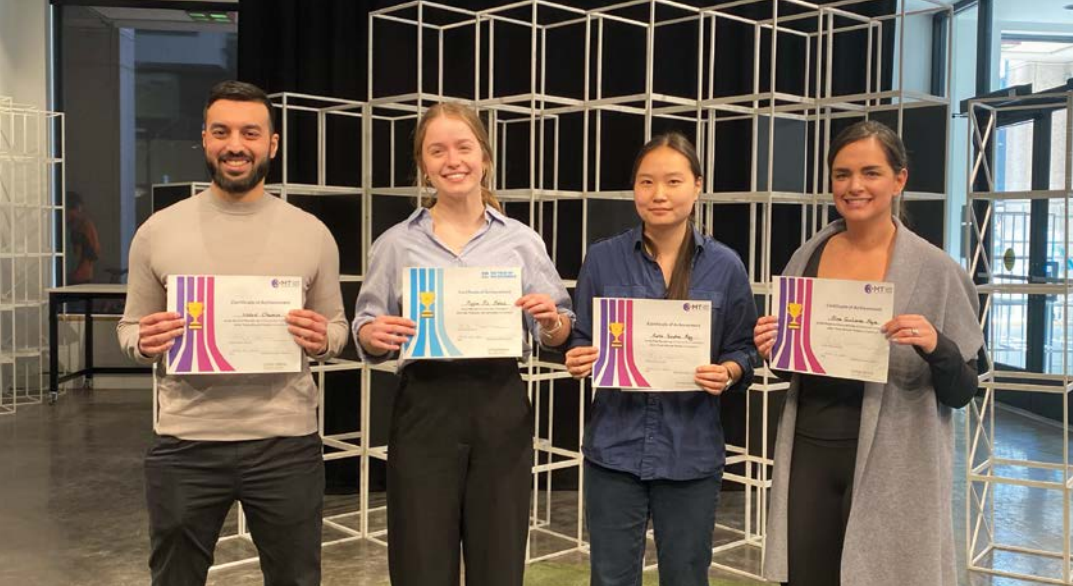
NEW RESEARCH REVEALS CANADA'S REAL ESTATE EDGE

A new study led by the John Molson School of Business **highlights how Canada's real estate market is weathering climate risks.** Researchers found that while climate change affects both Canada and the United States, Canada's cooler climate and stable demand make it an increasingly attractive destination. "Our data shows that, despite challenges, demand for Canadian real estate will remain strong," says **Erkan Yönder**, associate professor of finance and the study's lead researcher. This research offers key insights for investors and policymakers navigating a climate-impacted future.

CONCORDIA'S CENTRE FOR CREATIVE REUSE (CUCCR) CELEBRATED EIGHT YEARS OF SUSTAINABILITY AND INNOVATION WITH A MAKER AND ARTIST MARKET AT 4TH SPACE ON MARCH 11. THE EVENT HIGHLIGHTED ARTWORKS AND CREATIONS MADE FROM RECLAIMED MATERIALS, SHOWCASING CUCCR'S IMPACT IN PROMOTING REUSE AND CREATIVITY WITHIN THE COMMUNITY.



RESEARCHERS AT THE GINA CODY SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE DEVELOPED THE **iSurgARy APP**, AN AUGMENTED REALITY (AR) PLATFORM DESIGNED TO IMPROVE THE SAFETY AND ACCURACY OF VENTRICULOSTOMY PROCEDURES. THE SYSTEM USES LIDAR TECHNOLOGY AND AR TO HELP SURGEONS PRECISELY TARGET THE VENTRICLES IN THE BRAIN, POTENTIALLY SAVING LIVES AND IMPROVING OUTCOMES IN RESOURCE-LIMITED SETTINGS.



FOUR CONCORDIA GRADUATE STUDENTS CLAIMED TOP PRIZES AT THE 2025 THREE MINUTE THESIS (3MT®) COMPETITION. PARTICIPANTS WERE CHALLENGED TO PRESENT THEIR RESEARCH IN UNDER THREE MINUTES USING A SINGLE SLIDE. **MEGAN MC MANUS**, BSC 22, MSC 24, TOOK FIRST PLACE FOR HER RESEARCH ON IMPROVING HEART TREATMENTS WITH ULTRASOUND, WHILE **MARIE-SOPHIE ROY**, **NABEEL CHAUMUN**, BSC 22, AND **ALINA GUTIERREZ MEJIA**, BFA 09, MA 16, SECURED SECOND, THIRD AND PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS, RESPECTIVELY.

UNIVER/CITY 2030 EARNS INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

Concordia's **UNIVER/CITY 2030 initiative** received an honourable mention at the 2024 International Sustainable Campus Network Excellence Awards. Part of the Next-Generation Cities Institute, the initiative bridges gaps in Montreal's climate action and supports key projects like the Montreal Climate Data Hub. "UNIVER/CITY 2030 provides backbone infrastructure to help align and accelerate the work of a range of important stakeholders, including universities," says **Jason Ens**, executive director of Academic Policy, Planning and Strategic Initiatives in the Office of the Provost and Vice-President, Academic.



CONCORDIA AND NATIONAL BANK HAVE PARTNERED ON A \$1.5-MILLION INITIATIVE, CO-FUNDED BY THE NATURAL SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING RESEARCH COUNCIL OF CANADA (NSERC), TO IMPROVE THE DEVELOPMENT OF TRUSTWORTHY AI-BASED SYSTEMS. LED BY **EMAD SHIHAB**, ASSOCIATE DEAN OF RESEARCH AND INNOVATION AT THE GINA CODY SCHOOL, THE RESEARCH WILL FOCUS ON AUTOMATING AND ENHANCING SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT, ENSURING THE RELIABILITY AND SECURITY OF AI-GENERATED CODE, AND TRAINING STUDENTS IN AI SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT. THE PROJECT ALSO AIMS TO PROVIDE VALUABLE INSIGHTS FOR THE BROADER AI COMMUNITY.

STUDENTS REDEFINE THEATRE THROUGH IMMERSIVE PERFORMANCE

Eleven Department of Theatre students **teamed up with the Canadian Centre for Architecture to create an immersive theatre experience** that reimagined the building's architectural and social histories. Guided by department chair **Shauna Janssen**, BFA 94, MA 09, PhD 14, the students developed individual works that invited audiences to explore the historic Shaughnessy House, a 19th-century mansion in Montreal, in new ways. The final performances challenged traditional theatre by blending space, history and performance, offering a fresh perspective on the past.

NEW BLACK STUDIES MINOR A QUEBEC FIRST

Launching in fall 2025, Concordia's **new Minor in Black and African Diaspora Studies is the first of its kind in Quebec**. The program explores Black history, experiences and academic thought in the Canadian context. "This is a crucial step in fostering Black inclusion in higher education," says **Christiana Abraham**, inaugural program director. The 24-credit minor spans multiple disciplines in Arts and Fine Arts. ■



MICHAEL WILLIAMS,
BA 80, (RIGHT) WITH
NILE RODGERS AND
QUINCY JONES AT
CANADIAN MUSIC
WEEK IN 2014

Much more than music

From Concordia radio to visionary VJ, Michael Williams helped shape Canada's sound

HOWARD BOKSER, MBA 85

His resonant voice may be an octave or so deeper. His full head of hair may be considerably lighter and longer — his email address starts with “greydread,” after all. But close your eyes and listen to Michael Williams, BA 80, and those of a certain age will be thrown back to the glory days of 1970s-’80s Montreal radio and MuchMusic.

While the Concordia alum played a pivotal role in rebuilding Radio Loyola and later became a local music fixture and DJ at Montreal radio stations CHOM FM and CKGM, he’s best known for being among the first VJs — video jockeys — at MuchMusic, the Canadian video music TV station launched in Toronto in 1984.

During his nearly five-decade music-industry career, Williams has been instrumental in introducing Canadians to hip hop, soul, jazz and other Black music — plus, he stresses, Québécois music outside the province. Although

the American-born Williams has lived in Toronto for many years, he retains a strong love of his time at Concordia and his days in its city. “Montreal was always home, and Toronto was work,” he says.

‘I FOUND MY PEOPLE’

Williams attributes his wide-ranging musical taste and knowledge to his hometown, Cleveland, Ohio. “There’s a reason why the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame is there,” he says. “It was a rather unique market for music, between soul, rock, pop and other forms. They also had the Cleveland Orchestra, one of the top five orchestras in the world when I was growing up.”

His path to Montreal started, improbably, thanks to a visit to his high school by the musical performance group Up With People, whose mission is to empower youth through a positive musical message.

“They did this show, and we all thought it was kind of corny in the beginning,” he recalls. “They were way

too damn happy! But by the end, they had us in the palm of their hand.”

Williams was so taken that he ended up joining and touring the world for a time with Up With People. He befriended a Canadian woman in the group, and when he began looking for university communication studies programs, she recommended the one at Loyola College — one of Concordia’s founding institutions — where she was studying.

Williams recalls that when he visited the campus, “I discovered this incredible city called Montreal.” The stopover wasn’t without its challenges, though. “I went into the city to party with my friends, and we couldn’t get into four different clubs. The reason was because of me — because I was Black. And I silently vowed to myself that I would do something to change that somehow,” he says.

“The fifth club was the Lorelei. When they let me in, they were playing my favourite song, ‘The Bottle,’ by an

artist that I became very good friends with, Gil Scott Heron. I said, 'I think I found my people.' And I did."

Williams also had to convince Father John O'Brien, BA 45, the founder of what's now the Department of Communication Studies, to let him into the program.

"At Concordia, I studied the music, the culture, the radio in English and French, made friends, and it was just absolutely great," he recounts. Williams and Stanley Darville, known as Jason, Stan and Co., were hugely popular DJs at the Loyola Campus Centre. He also DJed on Radio Loyola. "Along with Mike Delaney, Irene Boucher, Mems (Sarah Mary Ellen) Maloney [BA 76], Don Weekes and Joyce Pillarella [BA 06], I helped rebuild Radio Loyola."

CHOM, MUCH AND MORE

By the late 1970s, Williams became involved in various music projects in town, including at the Jazz Festival and Club 1234 nightclub, and across the country.

In 1979, with his Radio Loyola experience in hand, Williams met with Rob Braide, CHOM's program director. "He says to me, 'We have a slot midnight to six. Would you like to try it?'" Williams relates. "I said, 'Absolutely.' This was my dream." He also created and hosted *Club 980 Soul in the City* on CKGM, where he introduced listeners to music tied to Black culture. "And that became quite famous, which is what the documentary *The Roots of Hip-Hop in Québec* is about," he says.

In 1984, a friend from Concordia, Zoe Stotland, BA 77, introduced Williams to Catherine McCartney. She was the agent of actor Al Waxman and media mogul Moses Znaimer — and soon to become Williams's agent and manager. "Catherine said to me, 'This guy named

Moses Znaimer started this thing in Toronto called MuchMusic, and I think you should try out.'"

Williams sent in a demo tape and landed an interview. "I walked in and had only a few things prepared," he admits. Nonetheless, he got the job. "The microphone I used at CHOM was replaced by the TV camera."

On his first day at Much, Williams interviewed the pioneering hip hop group Run-DMC as well as Lou Reed, leader of the influential 1960s rock band The Velvet Underground — a diverse pairing that reflects his own broad musical preferences. He credits Much with being more open to airing hip hop videos than its American counterpart, MTV.

culture. MuchMusic was a place where we wrote the book every day," he says.

"I wanted to make sure that Miles Davis was just as popular as Metallica, and that both their audiences knew the two. As long as it was music, we could communicate and have a great time."

POST-MUCH

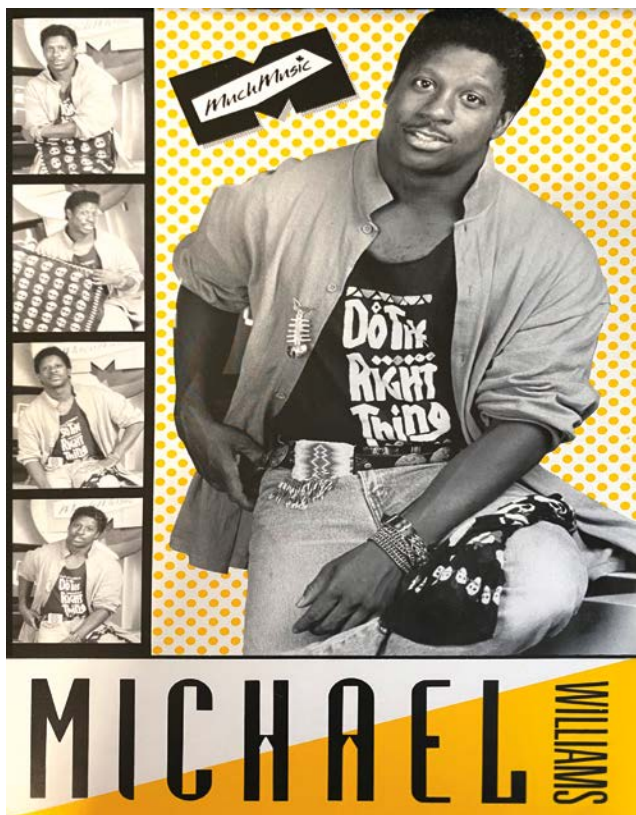
Since leaving Much in 1993, Williams has continued to expand his music experiences through producing, lecturing, providing media commentary, serving as a mentor for young musicians and more. He even returned to Quebec for a spell. "It's where I had my son, Miles Greenberg Williams, who is a very famous artist now."

Williams now supports Birdsong, the David Martin New Music Foundation, named after the son of John Martin, MuchMusic's original director. David Martin was a musician who committed suicide. The foundation records musicians struggling with mental illness.

"The places people go to create music are like rooms in a house," Williams explains. "Sometimes they go in those rooms and create absolutely magnificent things, but sometimes they can't get out, and that's when the trouble starts."

He is also now tapping into his vast musical experiences for his memoir, tentatively called *Radio, Race and Record*. "It looks at my life like a three-course meal: breakfast, lunch and dinner," he says. "And then there's midnight snacks, you know?"

Williams clearly loved his time in Montreal and its music scene. "One thing I really want to do is buy CHOM and take it back to where it was, because it was one of the greatest radio stations in the country, hands down — and I've heard them all." ■



WILLIAMS'S MUCHMUSIC PROMO POSTER FROM THE 1980s

"If I could have that breadth of music from Run-DMC to Lou Reed and beyond, then I was in the right place with the right people," Williams says. "I got to represent Montreal, French-Canadian music and culture, as well as Black

A commerce alumna's big-ticket dream

Ticketpro president
Guislaine Bulman's early
call to go virtual inspired
career success

DAVID SILVERBERG

Guislaine Bulman, BComm 92, may not portray herself as a pioneer in her field, but it was her initiative more than 25 years ago that helped revolutionize the way we purchase event tickets.

Back in 1998, when she was working at Montreal's Théâtre St-Denis as a manager in the ticketing department, Bulman suggested the idea of online ticketing.

"My boss wasn't interested," she recalls, "but that's when I learned that it's better to ask for forgiveness than permission."

Bulman is now president of Ticketpro, a ticketing software powerhouse with a presence in almost every Canadian province. Leading 25 staffers who regularly communicate with hundreds of event managers and venues is a fulfilling role, she says.

"I love working with a team, and I feel like my job is to ensure they have what they need so everything goes well."

Bulman recognized the value of helping others when she was growing up in Quebec City with dreams of becoming an Olympic figure skater. She soon levelled up to become a young skating teacher.



GUISLAINE BULMAN, BCOMM 92

When she enrolled at Concordia, a major draw was the opportunity to find her independence. "Being the youngest of seven kids, I was always supervised, so to do what I wanted and make decisions for myself was really appealing to me," says Bulman, who majored in international business.

FROM MASTER TO PRO

Bulman began working at Ticketmaster soon after graduation, but after two years the company decided to close shop in Montreal. Bulman then moved to the ticketing office at Théâtre St-Denis.

"There, I began to understand the ins and outs of how ticket selling worked and what went into a successful call centre," she says. "It was a lot of work, but one of the things I like about ticketing is that you kind of touch on everything."

Bulman also began to recognize the perspectives — sometimes thorny — of ticket buyers vying to see their favourite show. "I learned early on that people felt entitled to a ticket, and if it was sold out, we had to remind them how there could be thousands of people in line for 200 tickets," she recalls.

Bulman has helmed Ticketpro as president since 2019. During the COVID-19 pandemic, business cratered but the company didn't venture into the virtual ticket space to which many artists had migrated.

"We found that most artists were doing these things for free, and customers were reluctant to spend \$20 on an online show," Bulman says.

But from the crisis of lockdown arose a new opportunity: The City of Quebec called Bulman. It was running free activities outdoors but needed a ticketed solution to ensure that, for example, 20 people weren't on the ice rink at the same time, due to social-distancing restrictions.

"Within three weeks of that phone call, we were up and running," she says.

Over the past few years, Bulman has seen her share of business highs and lows.

"In 2022, we had a banner year for events to rebound, but 2023 saw a downward trend as wallets tightened, and we again saw a rebound in the latter half of 2024," she says.

"Through all the ups and downs, one thing remains constant. People love live events, and they'll always find a way to show up." ■

How artist and professor Jinny Yu finds meaning in abstraction

'I hope that the students I teach graduate as engaged citizens who can think critically for themselves'

RITA SIMONETTA

Jinny Yu, BFA 98, doesn't just create abstract art — she uses it as a means to examine the world around her.

"The language of abstraction has so much potential of communicating things that are not possible in other ways," Yu points out. That openness fuels the artist's exploration of a personal and political question: "What does it mean to live here as a settler on this unceded Indigenous land?"

It's a theme Yu explores in her upcoming *Superposition* exhibition at the Guido Molinari Foundation in Montreal, which runs from June 5 to August 24, 2025. Exhibiting at the venue is a full-circle moment for Yu, who studied under Guido Molinari, one of Canada's most acclaimed abstract artists, during her time in Concordia's BFA program.

"I was impressed by the confidence he had in himself as an artist," she says. "He was such an abstractionist and formalist; he wasn't concerned about subject matter, but about forms and colours. I'm honoured to be presenting my solo exhibition in his former studio, now a museum, and I'm proud to be building on his legacy and carrying on the exploration of abstraction in Canadian art."

'THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE IDEAS'

The exhibition will feature works Yu painted between 2017 and 2024, an expansion of her recent solo debut show at the AGO, *Jinny Yu: at once*, in which she considered themes about home and belonging — a subject deeply personal to her.

Born in Seoul, Yu grew up in Montreal, studied in Toronto and has lived in Sackville, N.B., Venice and New York. She now divides her time between Berlin and Ottawa, embodying the transnational experience her art often evokes.

"These works express how I feel. They examine the power relation between host and guest in our society," says Yu. "When you move around a lot, you start to see things more clearly as you develop points of comparison. I've gained an affinity for abstraction through this kind of movement and getting to see places from a distance."

In Berlin, Yu found a place that fuels her creative drive. "It's an exciting city for contemporary visual artists. I have many artist friends there, as well as family," she says.

In Ottawa, Yu found a different kind of fulfillment — the opportunity to share her passion with others. A professor of painting at the University of Ottawa



CEAIG BOYKO, AGO

JINNY YU, BFA 98, WITH HER WORK, "INEXTRICABLY OURS 23-07," 2023. ART GALLERY OF ONTARIO.

since 2006, Yu sees teaching as a way to give back. "Teaching allows me to contribute to society. I value teaching and the opportunity to exchange ideas with new generations."

At the core of her pedagogy is a belief in art as a tool for social change — one that can challenge perspectives and spark critical conversations.

"It's not just about formal concerns, but societal and political concerns. I hope that the students I teach graduate as engaged citizens who can think critically for themselves."

In an ode to her former teacher Guido Molinari, Yu still carries on a tradition she learned from the celebrated artist and mentor.

"He would always wear a baseball cap to class," Yu recalls. "The cap cuts the overhead light so you can better focus your vision on the painting. Now, I also wear a baseball cap in my studio when I paint." ■



JINNY YU: AT ONCE RAN FROM JUNE 22, 2024, TO JANUARY 5, 2025, AT THE AGO.

Concordia launches public history project to mark its 50th anniversary

Concordia at 50 is 'a rich, complex, multifaceted polyphony of stories'



LINDA DYER, PROFESSOR AND CHAIR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT, AND RONALD RUDIN, DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF HISTORY, CONTRIBUTED TO *CONCORDIA AT 50* AND SPOKE AT THE LAUNCH.

FELICITY T. C. HAMER,
BFA 12, MA 15, PHD 23

Concordians gathered at 4TH SPACE on Sir George Williams Campus on November 20 to launch a commemorative public history project with three components: an anthology — *Concordia at 50: A Collective History* — the oral histories shared in the book and a digital timeline tracking the university's evolution over five decades.

Monika Kin Gagnon, BA 82, lead editor and Department of Communication Studies professor, outlined some of the challenges and joys of compiling the book alongside co-editor and historian Brandon Webb, PhD 22. "It was a rock 'n' roll production and process," Gagnon joked.

"We were so fortunate to have Monika and Brandon as our leaders," noted Steven High, Department of History professor, founding member of

Concordia's Centre for Oral History and Digital Storytelling and team lead for the oral-histories component of the project.

"This book would never have been completed without them. A collection is a hard thing to do."

'A DIVERSE, INNOVATIVE AND DYNAMIC INSTITUTION'

Anne Whitelaw, BFA 87, GrDip 92, PhD 96, provost and vice-president, Academic, warmed the crowd with an account of the project's origin story.

"It started with a conversation that then-University Librarian Guylaine Beaudry and I had about the impending 50th anniversary of the merger," Whitelaw shared. "We thought it would be really good to have a university history."

Together, with Gagnon and the rest of the editorial team, they devised a plan to solicit proposals for accounts of the university from very different perspectives.

"We recognized that the volume would not capture every single moment, event or unit within the university," Whitelaw asserted. "But we felt it would speak to different viewpoints, histories and experiences. The result is a volume that really fits with Concordia's DNA — as a diverse, innovative and dynamic institution."

Comprised of contributions from staff, alumni, current and emeritus faculty, grad students and postdocs, *Concordia at 50* is "a rich, complex, multifaceted polyphony of stories, experiences, events, insights, opinions, disagreements and reflections on Concordia at our 50th anniversary," Gagnon described.

As co-editor, Webb noted: "History is never complete. It's an ongoing conversation about the past, its conflicts, its contested meanings. It is about struggle, and it's about our own changing relationships to the past."

The 1,001 adventures of French at Concordia University

Excerpts from Chapter 44 of *Concordia at 50*

A REFLECTION OF THE COMMUNITY

One of the primary strengths of the book is the inclusion of oral histories co-ordinated by Piyusha Chatterjee, PhD 22, and Steven High.

“Chatterjee conducted long interviews — two to three hours per person,” High noted. “You really get a sense of what a place means to people, and how it has changed.”

“The stories are amazing — the first generation of women in many disciplines, the sexism they faced, barriers they had to push through. Even the naming of Concordia, the debates around that. Stories of protest, of activism — through these little stories shared in the interviews, we get a sense of the bigger story.”

“As much as the book is a collective history told by Concordians, we wanted to share the history told by the archival records,” says Eric Côté, archivist for Records Management and Archives. Côté was on the team that compiled the digital timeline.

Jason Camlot, BA 90, professor in the Department of English, who helped build the website, noted that “all three of these projects, in a way, are also a manifestation of the many different kinds of collaborative research methods that we engage in as researchers at Concordia on a daily basis. This — and the people that have been involved — are among the many reasons it has been so fun to participate in these projects.”

High echoed this sentiment: “We had the freedom to engage with some difficult stories, but also with ordinary people’s life stories. I think it reflects our community.”

FRANÇOISE NAUDILLON

Before the arranged marriage of Loyola College and Sir George Williams, both English-language institutions already offered French courses to their respective students.

Several symbols bear witness to this and we offer, here, a few milestones from yesterday to today. In 1967, Loyola College student Lynn Ranger, BA 67, won the French Language Prize at the 71st Convention. For many years, Loyola College had been offering evening classes in French in its university courses. The same is true of Sir George Williams.

Since then, the Département d’études françaises at Concordia has undergone many changes but remains the heir to the original experiments conducted by the two institutions that preceded it.

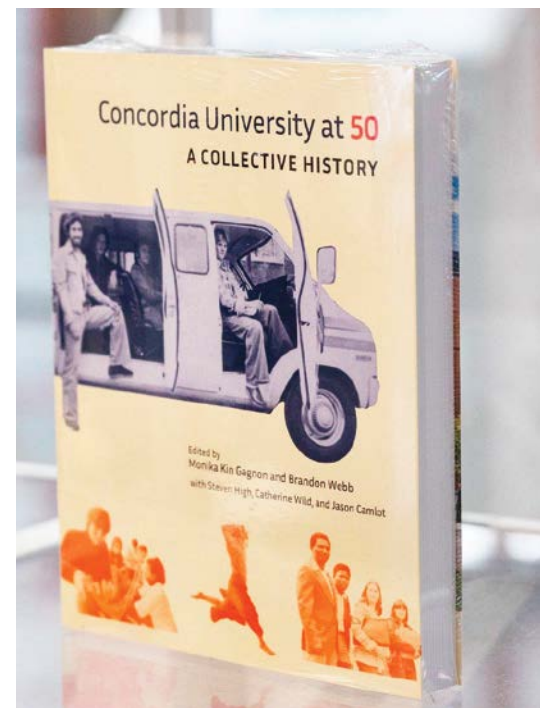
Those who lived through it will remember that the integration of Sir George Williams and Loyola teachers was not easy. For a long time, until the late 1990s, the Département d’études françaises was geographically divided, with some professors retaining their offices on the Loyola Campus and others downtown. Similarly, some of the library’s French-language collections were still only available for consultation on Loyola Campus.

Today, the Département d’études françaises comprises three areas of teaching and expertise — literature, French-language instruction and translation — and it has continued to build up its identity year after year. It sees itself as an open window on the Francophonie worlds and cultures that share the French language.

Quebec literature courses are particularly popular with students. For many, they are the anchor and reference point for knowledge of Quebec culture.

At the heart of the university, the department represents not only an opening onto Montreal and its teeming cultural life, but also a gateway to other cultures that share the French language.

Françoise Naudillon is a professor in Concordia’s Département d’études françaises, specializing in francophone literature and paraliteratures. In particular, she works on discourses of reception, popular literatures and Afrofuturist narratives. ■



Concordia at 50: A Collective History is available at bkstr.com/concordiastore and as a free download at press.library.concordia.ca.

Investing in interns helps companies build a loyal talent pipeline

Top Quebec executives share strategies for turning students into permanent employees

CHERINE ZANANIRI

In today's job market, internships are increasingly becoming a strategic tool for organizations. By investing in training interns while benefiting from Quebec tax credits, companies can create a loyal talent pipeline. Diverse students from universities such as Concordia bring fresh insights and a global perspective, which they then integrate into the company's culture and processes.

The impact is significant, with a recent study showing that Concordia graduates contribute \$925 million in human-capital enhancement — increased productivity — through the university's 179,000 graduates working in Quebec.

Directors at leading Quebec companies that have partnered with Concordia recently shared their best strategies for recruiting the most qualified interns and facilitating their transition into permanent roles.

WELCOME INTERNS FROM DAY ONE

Making an intern feel part of the organization and enhancing their sense of belonging is one of the most effective strategies for building your brand as a great employer.

Julie Lavallée, vice-president of Human Resources at AtkinsRéalis (formerly SNC-Lavalin) explains: "Our buddy system for interns ensures that they connect regularly and stay engaged. This close relationship often leads them to return for a second internship or be offered permanent positions."

Josie Scalia, BComm 95, vice-president of Global Taxation at CAE, has overseen interns throughout her career and has built a strong and steady talent pool as a result.

In a past role at Nestlé Health Science, she motivated her hybrid team to show up for in-person days. "Our noon-hour walking club and foosball tournaments allowed team members, supervisors and interns to come together," says Scalia.

BUILD TOWARDS THE FUTURE

Engaging interns with skill-building projects aligned with their strengths fosters long-term career growth. What's more, by clearly communicating possible career paths, employers can inspire loyalty among new employees.

"Feedback from students is important. It is a two-way street, and we want to be sure that both the interns and the company are continuously evolving," says Lavallée.



Vince Hua, BComm 98, who leads Vffice, recently ranked as one of Canada's Best Startup Employers by *Forbes*, has hired almost 30 interns since 2019 — seven of whom have transitioned into full-time employees.

"I like to give young people the opportunity to choose the right career for them. I see myself in them, and I am happy to give back," says Hua.

Marco Beaulieu, director of School Partnerships and Internship Experience at Bombardier, highlights his company's approach: "We make sure interns feel

part of the team, have amazing projects and are part of important decisions. This practical exposure helps them see if they fit within the organization, and it also allows us to assess their potential for future roles."

ATTRACT TOP TALENT

Regular touchpoints with supervisors, mentors and leaders can prepare students for their careers and reduce the common feeling of being impostors.

As part of her Co-op program at Concordia, political science student Savannah Carvalho did three internships. "Imposter syndrome is real, but with time and support you learn to believe in yourself," she says. "My last internship at the Privy Council Office

in Ottawa was particularly exceptional, fuelling my curiosity and motivation while providing a fantastic support system."

Bringing interns on board and inspiring them to grow with your company builds a dedicated team while cutting down on recruitment costs. Converting interns allows you to retain valuable knowledge, infuse your team with fresh

ideas and boost commitment to your company's success.

By implementing these strategies, organizations can build a strong employer brand and attract top talent from universities and beyond. ■

Cherine Zananiri is director of Experiential Learning and Co-operative Education at Concordia.

Learn about the Institute for Co-operative Education at concordia.ca/academics/co-op.

Vanier Library celebrates 60 years

LESLIE GOLDSTEIN, BADMIN 93

The Georges P. Vanier Library celebrated its 60th anniversary last fall, marking six decades of serving students, faculty and researchers.

Originally part of Loyola College, one of Concordia's founding institutions, the facility opened on October 27, 1964. Named after Major-General the Right Honourable Georges Philias Vanier, BA 1906 — a distinguished lawyer, soldier, diplomat and Loyola graduate — the library was a key addition to the campus.

Designed to accommodate 600 users and 150,000 volumes, the three-storey building was described at the time as “the city’s newest and, by far, the most modern.” In 1989, an expansion doubled its shelf space and seating capacity.

A defining feature of Vanier Library has been its Special Collections and Archives, which preserve rare books, archival documents and materials



requiring special care. By 2024, the library’s archival holdings had grown by 690 per cent in a decade, offering resources on topics ranging from Black history in Montreal to 2SLGBTQIA+ literature, jazz and the city’s art scene.

Special Collections and Archives head Alexandra Mills, BFA 08, MA 10, notes its growing impact. “We work with an ever-expanding number of students, faculty, community groups

and researchers, providing access to invaluable materials that help tell stories that might not otherwise be known.”

University Librarian Amy Buckland, BA 06, highlights the Vanier Library’s role in connecting past and present.

“The relationships we build through community partnerships support student success and bring new opportunities for research,” she says. ■

Kenneth Woods Portfolio Management Program marks 25 years

IAN HARRISON, BCOMM 01

For 25 years, the Kenneth Woods Portfolio Management Program (KWMPMP) has provided select Department of Finance undergraduates the opportunity to manage a real investment portfolio in real time.

What began with a \$1-million donation from Kenneth (Ken) Woods, MBA 75, LLD 17, has since grown into a student-run fund valued at more than \$6.4 million.

This success, says KWMPMP director Sukyong Yang, is a testament to cohorts of talented research associates and fund managers, the guidance of esteemed mentors and client committee members, and the continuous involvement of Woods and other supporters.

“The strength of the portfolio management program lies not just in the hands-on experience it offers, but in the lifelong community it fosters

among students, alumni and industry professionals,” says Yang.

The program’s commitment to excellence was showcased last fall at the inaugural Canadian Student Investment Fund Case Competition, where KWMPMP students secured first place.

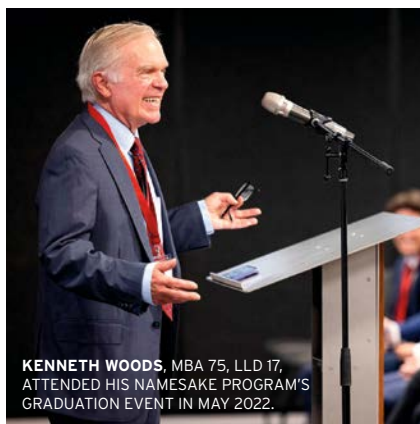
Woods — who subsequently built upon his foundational donation with additional major gifts to the Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen Now — once

recalled the initial skepticism that surrounded the notion of students in the role of money managers.

“Some believed the program would fail, that students would quickly lose the donation,” he observed. “But we had faith in their abilities — and they proved us right. Today, the program remains a model for student-managed funds worldwide.”

Adds Anne-Marie Croteau, dean of the John Molson School: “The Kenneth Woods Portfolio Management Program remains a hallmark of experiential learning. Thanks to the generosity of Kenneth Woods and the dedication of our program directors, past and present, as well as mentors and client committee members, the program has consistently produced top-tier investment professionals.

“We are incredibly proud of the impact KWMPMP graduates have made in the industry and look forward to the program’s continued success.” ■



KENNETH WOODS, MBA 75, LLD 17, ATTENDED HIS NAMESAKE PROGRAM'S GRADUATION EVENT IN MAY 2022.

Desjardins Group donates \$2.575 million to propel innovation, entrepreneurship and professional development

IAN HARRISON, BCOMM 01

In a constantly evolving society, where socioeconomic challenges are significant, Desjardins Group has reaffirmed its commitment to supporting entrepreneurship and education by making a major donation of \$2.575 million to Concordia.

This financial support will drive innovation and professional development initiatives while strengthening a strategic partnership that promises significant benefits for Montreal and Quebec society.

As the largest financial co-operative in North America, Desjardins Group has reinforced its dedication to training and supporting the leaders of tomorrow.

“This extraordinary commitment by Desjardins Group demonstrates the power of strategic partnerships in building our future,” says Concordia President Graham Carr. “Our university’s leadership in innovation, education and research ensures that these investments translate into meaningful societal and economic benefits for Montreal, Quebec and beyond.”

The donation to the Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen Now will support a suite of initiatives benefiting students, startups and the broader community.

“Teaming up with Concordia University to invest in innovation and education means more hands-on opportunities for students to learn and hone their skills,” says Guy Cormier, LLD 22, president and CEO of Desjardins Group. “We’re creating an environment where ideas can develop into new businesses. We are deeply



LEFT TO RIGHT: **PAUL CHESSE**, BA 94, GRDIP 97, VICE-PRESIDENT OF ADVANCEMENT; **ANNE-MARIE CROTEAU**, DEAN, JOHN MOLSON SCHOOL OF BUSINESS; **GUY CORMIER**, LLD 22, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF DESJARDINS GROUP; AND **PRESIDENT GRAHAM CARR**

proud of this partnership. For us, it’s a way to help our society meet future challenges.”

The gift of \$2.575 million will fund two core pillars:

Campus Startup Desjardins:

Led by District 3, Concordia’s innovation hub, this initiative includes programs such as the Desjardins Scientific Awards, the Desjardins Co-Founders Matching Initiative and the Desjardins Patent Awards, all designed to accelerate the creation of high-impact, scientific and technology-driven startups. Desjardins’ support will help encourage researchers and academics to pursue entrepreneurship, turning their ideas, research and innovations into tangible products and businesses.

Career Development Initiatives:

Delivered through Career Management Services at the John Molson School, these initiatives include the Desjardins Women in Finance Initiative and the annual John Molson Career Fair presented by Desjardins. Another initiative, the Desjardins Internship Program, is overseen by the Institute for Co-operative Education.

“Through this multi-year partnership with our Career Management Services, Desjardins will help foster greater collaboration between industry and the university, as well as encourage diversity in fields such as finance, where women continue to face significant underrepresentation,” says Anne-Marie Croteau, dean of the John Molson School. “This investment will not only

directly benefit our students, but also support businesses throughout Quebec with greater access to top young talent.”

The major gift will also support flagship events such as the Desjardins Founders Interview Series, the Desjardins Industry Spotlight Series and the John Molson Career Fair. These initiatives will foster interdisciplinary collaboration, showcase emerging technologies and provide students with crucial exposure to industry leaders.

Desjardins Group’s support aligns with the broader contributions Concordia is making to Montreal

and Quebec. According to a recent impact assessment, the institution generated nearly \$2 billion in value added to the Montreal and Quebec economies in 2022.

This impact includes \$925 million in enhanced productivity through its 179,000 graduates who work in the province; \$301 million from research activities; and \$763 million in spending by the university, its students and visitors from outside Quebec.

Desjardins Group’s latest donation builds on its long-standing relationship with Concordia, including a \$2-million

gift in 2007 that established the Desjardins Centre for Innovation and Financing.

“Desjardins Group has strengthened a tremendous legacy of support for our community,” says Paul Chesser, BA 94, GrDip 97, vice-president of Advancement. “The financial co-operative’s dedication to innovation and career readiness aligns with Concordia’s mission to prepare our students for the challenges of the future. We are deeply grateful for Desjardins Group’s generosity and vision.” ■

CLOSE TO 100 PEOPLE GATHERED FOR THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF DESJARDINS’ GIFT TO THE CAMPAIGN FOR CONCORDIA AT DISTRICT 3 INNOVATION HUB ON APRIL 15.



Doggone Foundation vitalizes curatorial studies at Faculty of Fine Arts

IAN HARRISON, BCOMM 01

Concordia marked a momentous occasion on November 14 with the special announcement of a \$540,000 gift from the Doggone Foundation.

The generous contribution will establish the Elspeth McConnell Critical Curatorial Laboratory, named in honour of the foundation's late benefactor, a long-time art collector and cultural patron.

The Doggone Foundation's dedication to Concordia spans more than a decade. The latest donation builds on previous contributions, including a \$2-million commitment in 2021 to fund experiential learning opportunities for fine-arts students.

With its new gift to the Faculty of Fine Arts, the foundation continues its legacy of fostering hands-on education, providing invaluable resources for future curators, scholars and artists.

The announcement event brought together a distinguished group of guests, including Doggone Foundation leaders Paul Marchand and Susan Avon, BFA 88, MA 94, Concordia President Graham Carr and members of the Faculty of Fine Arts.

'THE TIMING OF THIS GIFT IS PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT'

Dean Annie Gérin opened the event by welcoming the attendees and setting the stage for the announcement. She detailed how the Elspeth McConnell Critical Curatorial Laboratory would become a vital hub for curatorial studies, providing the state-of-the-art space and resources necessary for students to explore new perspectives, techniques and technologies in curatorial work.



FROM LEFT: **PRESIDENT GRAHAM CARR**; **CHERRY MARSHALL**, BA 06, MA 10, ASSOCIATE VICE-PRESIDENT, DEVELOPMENT, UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT; DOGGONE FOUNDATION REPRESENTATIVES **PAUL MARCHAND** AND **SUSAN AVON**, BFA 88, MA 94; **ANNIE GÉRIN**, DEAN, FACULTY OF FINE ARTS

"The timing of this gift is particularly significant as we prepare to launch in fall 2025 a new graduate certificate program in curatorial studies and practices, which will further expand our academic offerings and enrich the learning environment for students," said Gérin.

"This program will be the very first of its kind in the province of Quebec, and as an art historian and curator myself, I've been hoping and working for decades for this to happen."

In his remarks, Carr expressed deep appreciation for the Doggone Foundation's ongoing support.

"Paul Marchand and Susan Avon continue to honour Elspeth McConnell with their thoughtful, purposeful and visionary work," he remarked. "This latest donation brings the foundation's cumulative giving to Concordia to more than \$3 million. It's an extraordinarily impactful partnership that benefits the fine arts at Concordia, in Quebec and across Canada."

'A SPACE WHERE WE CAN COME TOGETHER, GROW AND THRIVE'

The event paid tribute to the late Elspeth McConnell, whose name will now grace the new laboratory as a testament to her philanthropy and contributions to the arts.

"We are honoured to have this new laboratory named in memory of Elspeth McConnell, whose passion for the arts and the development of young artists and scholars have left an enduring legacy," said Avon, director of the Doggone Foundation.

Following the announcement, a panel discussion moderated by Gérin featured three faculty members and art historians — Alice Ming Wai Jim, MFA 96, Michelle McGeough and Joana Joachim — who explored the transformative potential of the Critical Curatorial Laboratory. The panellists discussed how the new space would foster novel teaching methods and research practices, and how it will augment the experience of students in curatorial studies. ■

MBA grad turned aviation entrepreneur gives back

SANDRA EVOUGHLIAN

In 2016, MBA grad Nick Houseman established the Marjorie Houseman Bursary at Concordia to support students facing financial hardship — a cause close to his heart.

“I’ve been that student struggling to make ends meet,” he says. “Money was a challenge, and I feel an affinity to Concordia. It’s an up-and-coming university, battling its way through.”

Named in honour of his mother, the bursary reflects Houseman’s ongoing commitment to supporting the next generation. As a student, he served as president of the John Molson Graduate Students’ Association. After graduating in 1999, he remained closely involved, serving as a board member

and long-time judge for the MBA International Case Competition, and guest lecturing at the university.

“The MBA was the door opener,” he explains. “It allowed me to get into Bombardier and set me on my path.”

Houseman rose quickly at Bombardier, where he led major programs in business aviation, before launching several ventures of his own, including ZenithJet and Elit’Avia.

More recently, he shifted his focus to sustainability, founding Azzera and ZenithNet-Zero — two startups that help businesses measure, reduce and offset carbon emissions in meaningful ways.

He also earned a Micro-certificate in Water Stewardship and Market Mechanisms from the John Molson



NICK HOUSEMAN, MBA 99

Executive Centre, deepening his commitment to environmental impact and continuous learning.

“One of my strengths — and challenges — is my love of learning,” he says.

Houseman’s advice to students is simple: “Take risks. You’ll never know what you’re capable of unless you try.” ■

Air Canada supports inclusivity with new bursary for students with disabilities

IAN HARRISON, BCOMM 01

Concordia has received \$20,000 from Canada’s largest airline to create the Air Canada Bursary for Students with Disabilities.

The contribution to the Campaign for Concordia: Next-Gen Now will provide crucial support for students registered with Concordia’s Access Centre for Students with Disabilities.

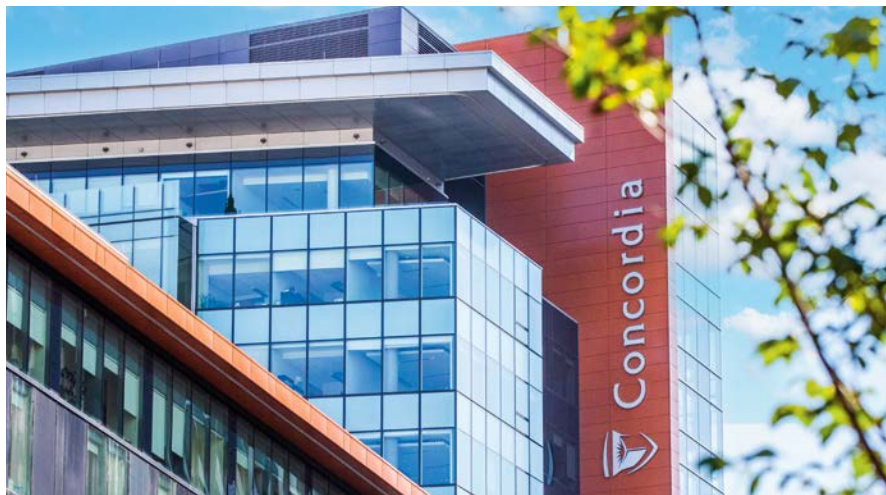
Successful candidates will each receive \$5,000 to help them realize their educational goals. The bursary aligns with Air Canada’s commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion by encouraging equitable access to education and professional development.

“At Air Canada, we believe that fostering inclusivity benefits everyone,” says Leslie-Ann Vezina, senior director, HR Centre of Excellence (COE), Travel and Talent. “As an airline, accessibility is central to our mission of connecting

people and communities. We aim to ensure that everyone, regardless of ability, can navigate the world with confidence and dignity.”

Some 4,225 students are registered with Concordia’s Access Centre, which provides services related to learning disabilities, mental-health conditions and physical impairments.

“The Air Canada Bursary for Students with Disabilities is a meaningful addition to our offerings,” says Adelina Feo, Access Centre manager. “A university education is a passport towards self-determination, stability and representation. Our whole community benefits from our students’ success.” ■



World-renowned composer supports students with \$75,000 endowment

JORDAN WHITEHOUSE

It's not every day that a professor from one university provides a large gift to another. But that's Barry Truax. The unorthodox comes with his territory.

The professor emeritus from Vancouver-based Simon Fraser University (SFU) and world-renowned composer of electroacoustic music recently established the Glenfraser Concordia Endowment with his partner, Guenther Krueger.

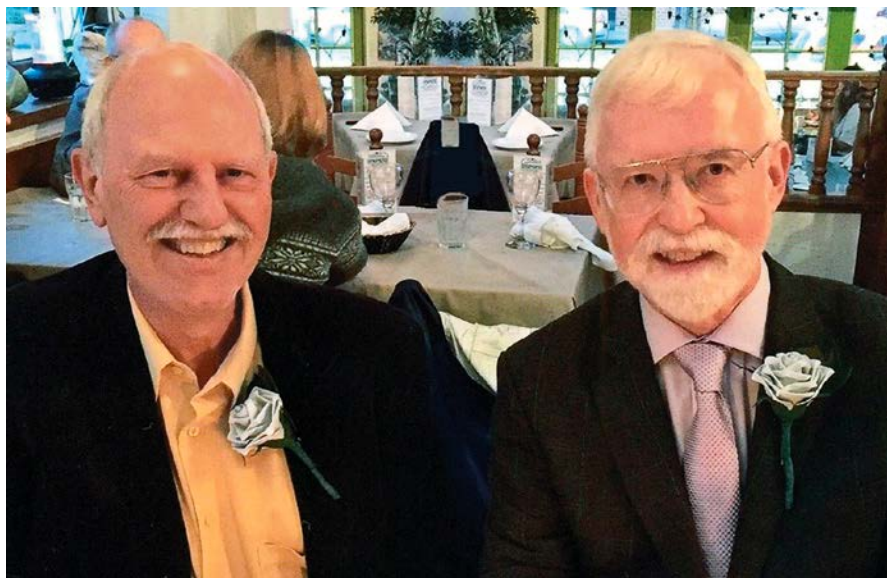
Their \$75,000 gift will support the Truax Award in Electroacoustic Music, an annual \$2,500 award for one or more undergraduate or graduate students who demonstrate excellence in electroacoustic music composition and research.

The endowment comes on the heels of two free, online courses in sound studies that Truax developed during the COVID-19 pandemic. Ever since, Concordia students have consistently enrolled and Truax has been a mentor to many of them.

That connection with Concordia students became so strong that Truax wanted to create a gift to support their work.

"The bottom line was that I became very impressed with the Concordia students — they were just really good," says Truax.

"This also filled a mentoring niche that was empty in my life after retiring," he adds. "There's nothing more satisfying than seeing young, highly motivated, talented and well-prepared students who then value my experience and get something out of it."



BARRY TRUAX (RIGHT) HAS ESTABLISHED AN ENDOWMENT WITH HIS PARTNER, **GUENTHER KRUEGER (LEFT)**.

'A PERFECT MARRIAGE OF TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS'

Electroacoustic music is an experimental style where composers use technology to change acoustic sounds. Truax admits that electroacoustic music isn't a mainstream genre. Yet he says that when he got turned on to it in 1969 during his studies in musical composition at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, "peace was declared" within him.

"It was a perfect marriage of technology and the arts for me," he says.

That began a 55-year career as a groundbreaking and award-winning electroacoustic composer. Truax is probably best known for his work with the World Soundscape Project and as a pioneer of granular synthesis.

At SFU, he taught courses in acoustic communication and electroacoustic

composition for more than 40 years. Truax and Krueger previously established the Glenfraser Endowment at SFU. They then developed two webinar courses that "just took off internationally," says Truax — especially with Concordia undergrads.

"I love teaching. I love working with these students," he says. "I feel like I'm in a position to help — and why not financially as well?" ■

'This is a legacy': Couple's bequest to support Library Development Fund and Otsenhákta Student Centre

HOWARD BOKSER, MBA 85

Steve Georgopoulos, BComm 76, and Liga Dekmeiers-Georgopoulos, attendee 76, agree that their studies at Loyola Campus in the early days of Concordia provided them with a great head start for the rest of their lives.

But it delivered at least one more benefit.

"The Vanier Library is where I met this wonderful lady," says Steve Georgopoulos, pointing to his wife of the past 42 years.

Liga Dekmeiers-Georgopoulos agrees, adding, "My time at Concordia allowed me to develop meaningful relationships."

In recognition of Concordia's matchmaking role — and for much, much more — the couple have pledged a planned gift in support of the

university's Library Development Fund and Otsenhákta Student Centre, the on-campus resource for First Nations, Inuit and Métis students.

The partners attended Loyola College's CEGEP before continuing university studies there, prior to its 1974 merger with Sir George Williams University.

Steve pursued a double major in business administration and economics. "When I graduated, I received a cum laude distinction, which I'm very proud of," he says. "Concordia gave me a passport and recognition."

Liga fondly remembers Concordia's diversity: "It was like the United Nations." After graduation, she worked in retail-merchandise planning before focusing on family and volunteer work in Ottawa.

'IT'S IMPORTANT TO LEAVE SOMETHING'

Since retiring from a 35-year career in the hotel industry, Steve has become, in his words, a "serial volunteer and ambassador" for many organizations. He recently received the Chair's Outstanding Volunteer Award from the Ottawa Catholic School Board.

Ironically, the COVID-19 pandemic helped him reconnect with Concordia. Soon after the lockdown began in spring 2020, he received an email invitation to the university's award-winning CU at Home webinar and programming series.

"It was inviting me to a Zoom event — and I didn't even know what Zoom was!" he recalls. Yet after Steve took an online course by corporate trainer Gillian Leithman, BA 00, MSc 05, PhD 16, he was able to pass along his newly acquired knowledge of Zoom to his Kiwanis Club of Ottawa members and Kiwanis Key Clubbers.

He also became hooked on CU at Home. "Apparently, my claim to fame is that I was the alumnus who attended the most of these educational sessions."

Steve can also claim some fame through the recent publication of his book *Next Station, Life: Switching to the Other Side of the Tracks*, co-written with Jarrod Nichol, MBA 20. It explores how even small decisions can have a big impact on the course of one's life and the power of intergenerational synergies. The authors held a public discussion of their book at Concordia in January 2024.

"I'm very passionate and appreciative of Concordia," Steve adds. "I want to demonstrate that you don't have to be financially independent to give."

"This is an important decision for us. This is a legacy." ■

View videos and read about recent gifts to the Campaign for Concordia at concordia.ca/campaign.



LIGA DEKMEIERS-GEORGOPoulos, ATTENDEE 76, AND STEVE GEORGOPoulos, BCOMM 76

50 YEARS, 50 REMARKABLE ALUMNI

IAN HARRISON, BCOMM 01

Among Concordia's global alumni network are award-winning artists, pioneering entrepreneurs, influential policymakers and leaders shaping industries and communities worldwide. From a CEO guiding one of Canada's largest financial institutions and a newly elected minister of Indigenous Services Canada, to a celebrated filmmaker and an Emmy-winning actress, these graduates exemplify the university's spirit of innovation, creativity and impact.

Fifty of these remarkable individuals are being recognized as part of the Great Concordians initiative, relaunched in 2024 to mark Concordia's 50th anniversary. Their achievements span diverse fields, demonstrating the depth of talent and leadership cultivated at Concordia over the decades.

As the Great Concordians series unfolds throughout 2025, it will continue to showcase the lasting influence of these trailblazers, inspiring future generations to make their mark on the world. Read our complete profiles at concordia.ca/greatconcordians.



RANA GHORAYEB, BA 97, MENG 01
Executive Vice-President and
Head of Real Estate, Caisse de
dépôt et placement du Québec/
Ivanhoé Cambridge

"My Concordia degrees in urban studies and engineering have been instrumental. I've worked in various fields, including real estate investment, construction and infrastructure investment."



NAVEED IRSHAD, BSC 93
President and CEO of Manulife Canada

"I'm honoured and privileged to be recognized as one of the 50 Great Concordians. Looking back, I have such fond memories of my time at the university. I cherish the wonderful experiences I had with faculty and friends."



ANNIE MURPHY, BFA 10
Emmy Award-winning actress

"Montreal was a great city, with a great community of actors and creative talent. Concordia is where I grew a lot and learned a lot. It set me on my path."



JEAN-FRANÇOIS BÉLISLE, BFA 04, MA 07

Director and CEO of the National Gallery of Canada

"I've always credited Concordia with shaping my path, so being recognized this way feels like a full-circle moment. Considering the calibre of the university's alumni, I feel privileged to be among so many accomplished individuals. It's quite humbling and surreal."



MANDY GULL-MASTY, BA 06, BA 08

Minister of Indigenous Services Canada

"My time at Concordia was really valuable because I entered the Political Science program aiming to understand how government decisions are made. My focus was on ensuring that decisions would serve the best interests of as many members of my community as possible. It's an honour to be recognized as part of such an outstanding cohort of alumni."



YVES BÉLANGER, BFA 84

Award-winning cinematographer

"Being named one of the Great Concordians is an honour, and it makes me reflect on the journey I've had. It's also a reminder of the importance of the community we have built at Concordia, which continues to inspire me."



VINCENT LECLERC, BCOMPSC 03

Founder and CEO of PixMob

"Concordia was a pivotal time for me. I came from a background where I hadn't studied in English before, and Montreal itself was a new experience. What struck me most was the cultural diversity of the campus. Interacting with people from all over the world, especially through projects in the Computation Arts program, was eye-opening."



STACEY JACKSON, BA 91

Multifaceted singer, television presenter, author and entrepreneur

"Concordia offered a hands-on learning experience that was on another level. What stands out the most is the cutting-edge Communication Studies program."



SABAA QUAO, BCOMM 89

President of PlusCo Venture Studio

"Concordia's forward-thinking approach allowed me to explore my startup instincts early on. It was a defining moment that set the course for my career."



DAWIT L. PETROS, BFA 03

**Visual artist and associate professor,
Dartmouth College**

“I am deeply invested in the legacy of Concordia. I’m proud of the institution and immensely grateful for what it facilitated for me. To be recognized as a Great Concordian is an immeasurable honour.”



NA'KUSET, BA 00

**Community organizer and executive
director of the Native Women's Shelter
of Montreal**

“My degree in human relations wasn’t just about learning theory; it was about figuring out how to create services for the Indigenous community in Montreal. I started working at a shelter during my last year at Concordia and applied everything I was learning in real time.”



MARC SÉGUIN, BFA 95

Painter, novelist and filmmaker

“When you’re sincere in your art, people can feel it. It’s not something you can fake long-term. Concordia played a crucial role in this for me. It gave me just enough confidence to go out there and present myself — whether that was sending a portfolio to a gallery or simply creating work that felt personal.”



RABIA KHAN, GRCERT 10, MBA 13

Founder and CEO of Serna Bio

“I did my MBA at the John Molson School of Business, and while an MBA can be a very structured degree, I was really interested in social entrepreneurship. The professors were very encouraging, and we were able to organize the first social entrepreneurship competition of its kind. That experience was invaluable.”



**THANH MY NGUYEN, BSC 86,
MSC 88, LLD 24**

Scientist, inventor and entrepreneur

“My success can be attributed to a combination of hard work, strong motivation and the quality education I received at Concordia. The excellent professors and the practical knowledge I gained from their teachings were crucial in shaping my career and enabling me to apply science and technology effectively in business.”



MARILLOUP WOLFE, BFA 03

Filmmaker and actor

“My time at Concordia was unforgettable. We weren’t asked to produce polished results, but to find our voices as filmmakers and expand our limits creatively.”



DEBRA ARBEC, BA 89
Award-winning CBC News anchor

“The Department of Journalism at Concordia was small, and that made it feel like a close-knit community. Even now, Concordia remains part of my life — I live near Loyola Campus, and I’ve kept my ties with the university over the years. It was like a family.”



JULIEN BRISEBOIS, EMBA 07
General Manager, Tampa Bay Lightning

“As much as I learned from the professors in the EMBA program, I learned just as much from my fellow students. I’ve stayed in touch with many of them over the years and occasionally reach out to them for advice, particularly in matters in which they have expertise that I don’t have.”



JIN-ME YOON, MFA 93
Award-winning visual artist

“I came to Concordia in 1990 for my MFA, and it was a really exciting time. It was an era full of passionate debate on historical moments, and we could discuss them fiercely and still go out and have fun. The diversity of people at Concordia pushed me to think critically. It was an inspiring place to begin my journey as an artist.”



JAMES TUPPER, BFA 92
Actor

“The Department of Theatre offered a space to explore and expand my understanding of acting in ways I hadn’t imagined before. My days were spent in the studio, and after classes I was immersed in Montreal’s arts and culture scene.”



KAHENTE HORN-MILLER, BA 99, MA 03, PHD 09
Scholar, researcher and advocate for Indigenous knowledge

“Growing up away from Kahnawake, I didn’t fully understand what it meant to be Mohawk until the Oka Crisis. That event inspired me to delve deeper into my heritage, and Concordia’s programs gave me the opportunity to study my community and culture. I applied my education to my own people.”

Read our complete Great Concordian profiles at concordia.ca/greatconcordians.

Game-changing firsts

As Concordia marks half a century, discover 50 things our community accomplished first in Montreal, Quebec, Canada and the world

LOUISE MORGAN, GRDIP 99

Concordians aren't just making their mark — they're making history. Across disciplines and around the world, they've been the first to push boundaries, challenge the status quo and redefine what's possible.

From science and technology to business and sustainability, from cinema and the arts to athletics and engineering, our alumni, faculty and students continue to lead the way. As Concordia celebrates its 50th anniversary, explore the bold firsts that have helped shape Montreal, Quebec, Canada and beyond.

1974

Following the merger of Loyola College and Sir George Williams University, Concordia welcomes its first students in September.

1980

The Institute for Co-operative Education is established. Today, all undergraduate students have the opportunity to engage in at least one experiential learning activity.

1983

Trailblazing Black educator and human-rights advocate Esmeralda Thornhill, LLD 97, introduces the first university-accredited course on Black women in Canada. ►



1976

The Concordia Shuttle (then a 13-seat van) makes its first return trip to transport students, faculty and staff between campuses. ►

The Faculty of Fine Arts is created at Concordia.



1977

The first issue of *Concordia University Magazine* is published and mailed to alumni.

1978

Concordia's Simone de Beauvoir Institute launches Canada's first Women's Studies program.

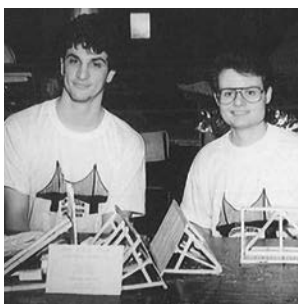


1982

Concordia hosts the world's first MBA case competition. Now known as the John Molson MBA International Case Competition, it remains the world's largest and most respected competition of its kind. ▲

1985

The first Troitsky Bridge Building Competition is held, where students build model bridges from Popsicle sticks, toothpicks and dental floss. ▼



1988

In its first venture into artificial-intelligence research, Concordia's Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science establishes the Centre for Pattern Recognition and Machine Intelligence.

1989

Gina Cody, MEng 81, PhD 89, breaks new ground at Concordia as the first woman to be awarded a PhD in building engineering at the university.

1979

Robert Bradley, BSc 79, becomes Concordia's first Rhodes Scholar. ◀



1990

The first-ever recycling bins are introduced on Sir George Williams Campus.

Concordia hosts its first Homecoming festivities to welcome graduates back to campus.

The Concordia University Alumni Association bestows its inaugural Alumni Recognition Awards.

1992

In a Quebec first, Concordia hosts La Ville en Rose, a conference on lesbian and gay studies.

The world's first international aviation MBA program takes flight at Concordia.

1995

Students open Le Frigo Vert on Sir George Williams Campus. The low-cost organic food co-operative is the first of its kind in Canada. ►

1997

Quebec's first program in software engineering is introduced by the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science.

1999

The People's Potato, Concordia's first soup kitchen, is founded to fight student hunger. ▼



In its first major focus on genomes, Concordia creates the Centre for Structural and Functional Genomics to contribute green solutions to the bio-food and paper-wood industries.

2000

The Faculty of Commerce and Administration is renamed the John Molson School of Business, following a generous gift from the Molson family.

2001

Hexagram Concordia — the university's first research, media and technology hub that unites scholars across three faculties — is born.

2006

Concordia's first Oscar-winning grad, Torill Kove, BA 85, triumphs in the animated short category for her film *The Danish Poet*.

2007

Sri Lankan physicist, engineer and economist Mohan Munasinghe, MA 75, becomes Concordia's first Nobel Peace Prize co-winner. ▼



2008

Concordia deploys Canada's first Wi-Fi network across a university campus.

2009

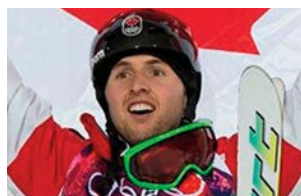
The Molson Building opens with a fully functional solar wall that generates electricity from the sun — a world first for a university building. ►

Concordia erects Quebec's first air-supported campus dome — the Stinger Dome — enabling athletes to train in cold weather.



2010

Johanna Skibsrud, MA 05, becomes the first Concordian to win the Giller Prize for her novel *The Sentimentalists*.



Alexandre Bilodeau, BComm 16, is the first Canadian athlete to win an Olympic gold medal on home soil at the 2010 Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver. ▲

Approved by the Canadian Association for Music Therapy, Concordia launches the first MA in music therapy in Quebec.



2011

The PERFORM Centre — Concordia's first research hub dedicated to health through prevention — begins operations on Loyola Campus. ▲

2012

Canada's first Centre for Applied Synthetic Biology is launched, uniting biologists, engineers and computer and social scientists.

A Concordia research team, led by biology professor Vladimir Titorenko, finds the first compound that kills cancer cells and extends lifespans.



2013

Concordia launches the District 3 Innovation Hub, the university's first startup accelerator. ▲

2014

The Georges P. Vanier Library welcomes pet-therapy dogs to help students reduce anxiety and lift spirits during exams. ▼



2016

Concordia University Press becomes the first open-access academic press in Quebec.

2017

Anne-Marie Croteau becomes the first woman dean of the John Molson School of Business. ▼



2018

The Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science becomes the first engineering faculty in Canada to be named after a woman. ▼



2020

Concordia launches the President's Task Force on Anti-Black Racism to oversee and co-ordinate the work needed to generate recommendations that will address systemic anti-Black racism at the university. ▼



Concordia introduces CU at Home, a virtual support network to help its community move from isolation to connection. The initiative includes online events, webinars, workshops and programming for children.

The Next-Generation Cities Institute is created at Concordia, bringing together more than 200 researchers within 14 university research centres to help shape the future of urban life. ►

A first of its kind in Canada, the Jonathan Wener Centre for Real Estate opens at Concordia's John Molson School of Business.

2021

Space Concordia's Rocketry Division sets a world record for being the first rocket engine developed and fired by civilians. ▼





2022

The Stingers women's hockey team wins gold for the first time in 23 years at the U Sports women's hockey national championship. ▲

2023

A first in Quebec, Concordia's Kaié:ri Nikawerá:ke Indigenous Bridging Program will help deliver university prerequisite courses to Indigenous students. ▼



2024

For the first time, Concordia scores the top spot in North America in the *Times Higher Education* Young University Rankings.

2025

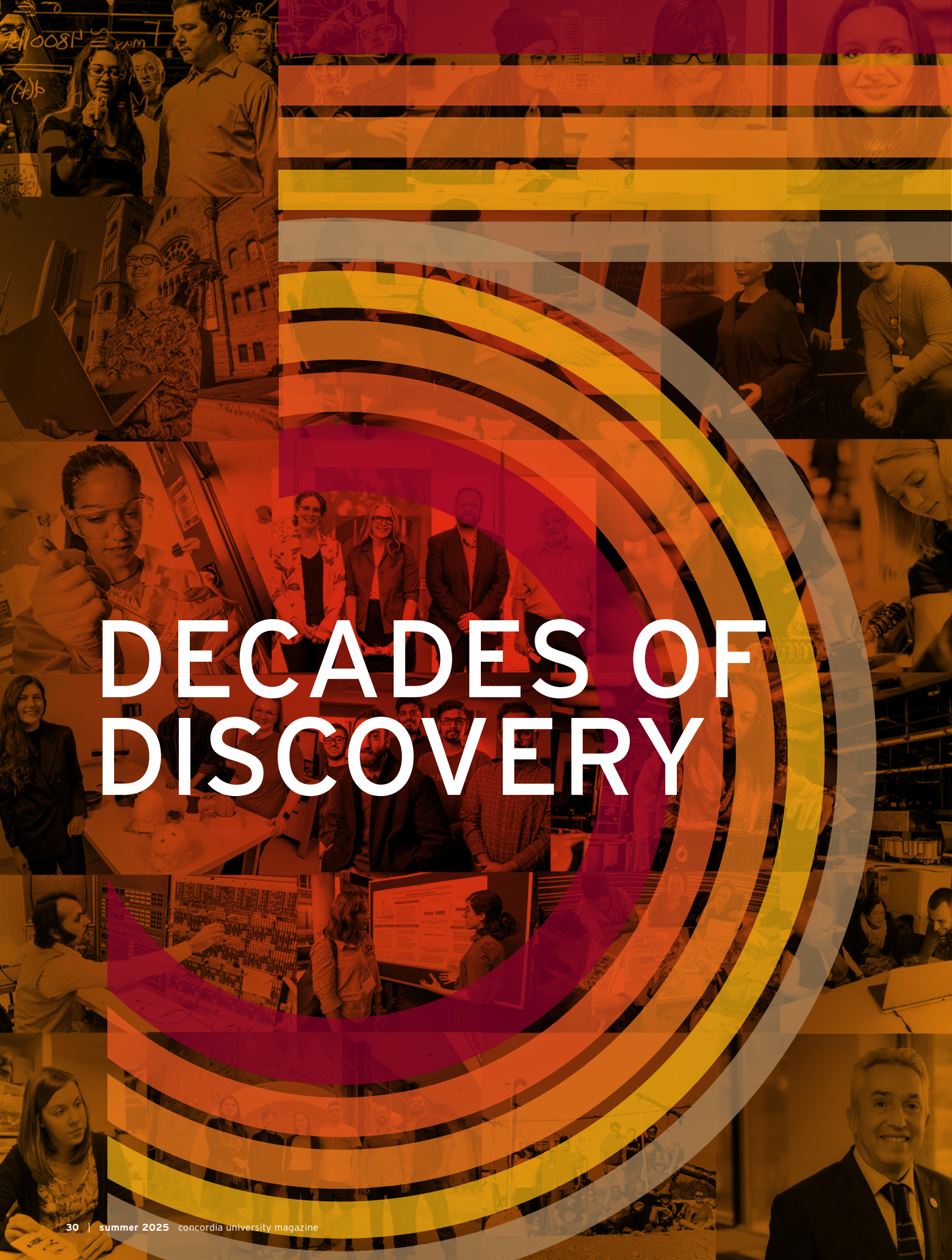
Concordia launches its first comprehensive, professional French terminology database. LexiConcordia offers 4,500+ terms for fields ranging from aerospace engineering to cognitive science and beyond.

Former Stingers captain Emmy Fecteau, BEd 24, becomes the first U Sports draftee to play in the Professional Women's Hockey League. ▼



Concordia launches a Minor in Black and African Diaspora Studies in the Canadian Context — a first of its kind in Quebec. Christiana Abraham is the program's inaugural director. ▲ ■

Learn what else Concordians did first at concordia.ca/firsts.



DECADES OF DISCOVERY

HOW CONCORDIA'S RAPID RISE AS A RESEARCH LEADER IS REDEFINING THE FUTURE

HOWARD BOKSER, MBA 85

The news is out: Concordia is making big strides in research. The 2024 *Canada's Top 50 Research Universities* rankings by Research Infosource placed the university first in Quebec and fifth in the country among comprehensive universities for research.

That's a remarkable leap for an institution where research wasn't always front and centre. When Loyola College and Sir George Williams University merged to form Concordia some 50 years ago, the university secured just \$1.6 million in sponsored research income — worth about \$8.5 million today. Fast forward to 2013-14, and that number surged to \$43.9 million, roughly \$56.4 million today. By 2023-24, Concordia hit an all-time high: \$129.1 million.

"University research drives innovation, solves complex challenges and advances knowledge across disciplines."

— President Graham Carr

"The growth in our research income these last 10 years has been nothing short of phenomenal, especially considering that Canada's research landscape has become more, not less intense and competitive in that period," says Concordia President Graham Carr, who was vice-president of Research and Graduate Studies from 2012 to 2016.

"That success goes hand in hand with the growth of our research graduate programs, the outstanding work by our faculty and the high-impact partnerships we've developed across a broad range of fields. Concordia has become a real player in the Canadian research sphere, and the reference point for high performance and innovation in many fields and sectors."

The clout of Concordia's ongoing research may be most evident in sustainability and cybersecurity. Witness the \$123-million grant secured by the university in 2023 to launch Volt-Age, the electrification research program.

Another among many other examples is its recent industry partnership that will look to improve the efficiency of security operations centres.

Yet the university's far-ranging research spans an array of topics across its four faculties, such as how reindeer vocalisation can offer cues to potential mates, how politically affiliated meme coins became a vital tool in the recent United States elections, and how music can make people move even when they don't like it.

As Carr points out, Concordia's research benefits the wider community. "University research drives innovation, solves complex challenges and advances knowledge across disciplines," he says.

"By educating future leaders and collaborating with industries and communities, university research contributes to societal progress, addressing global issues and improving quality of life."

MODEST BEGINNINGS

As its \$1.6 million in external funding in 1975-76 illustrates, Concordia's early research efforts were modest. "We were more or less an undergraduate institution at first," says Heather Adams-Robinette, senior director, VP, Research, Innovation and Impact in Concordia's Office of the Vice-President, Research, Innovation and Impact. But from those humble beginnings, the university began to steadily expand its research focus.

By the early 1980s, the Department of Psychology welcomed the Centre for Research in Human Development and Center for Studies in Behavioral Neurobiology (CSBN). "At the time, the CSBN was the only centre funded by Fonds de Recherche du Québec — Santé that was not part of a medical school, so it was held up as a huge example of research success," Adams-Robinette recounts.

In the years since — especially from the 2000s onward — Concordia has expanded its research footprint with a number of centres and institutes. These spaces bring together leading experts from within and beyond the university to foster collaboration and advance knowledge (more on page 33).

Adams-Robinette emphasizes that another crucial step was elevating the head of research from a vice-provost level to a vice-president level in 2006. "It was the recognition that if we



“If we were to advance as a research institution, we needed a vice-president focused on research.”

- Heather Adams-Robinette

were to advance as a research institution, we needed a vice-president focused on research,” she says. That year, Louise Dandurand became the university’s first VP of Research and Graduate Studies—a position now known as VP of Research, Innovation and Impact.

MOVING THE NEEDLE

This January, Concordia welcomed Tim Evans to the role. Evans previously served as director and associate dean of the School of Population and Global Health at McGill University and executive director of Canada’s COVID-19 Immunity Task Force, among other senior leadership positions nationally and internationally.

Evans recognizes the university’s research potential. “We’re building on strength, such as the great work going on in the areas of sustainability and health,” he says. “I see my role as trying to facilitate and encourage that growth in ways where the university continues to define a clear niche with respect to impact.”

While discovery remains central to research, Evans emphasizes the importance of follow-through and real-world relevance. “I think there is a strong culture of delivery and impact at Concordia, which will continue to distinguish us from other universities.”

As an example, he points to the implementation research being conducted at the university’s Next-Generation Cities Institute, where members are working with municipalities to drive sustainability initiatives across urban infrastructures and the environment.

“The institute draws on discovery research related to issues like building ventilation and heating, and works with key implementers to get these things translated into building codes and initiatives so that, in fact, we actually move the needle on green cities,” he says.

With its focus on implementation, the institute is helping to bridge what’s referred to as the “know-do gap,” that is, “making sure what we know works gets translated into action in diverse contexts,” Evans explains.

“A lot of people think that research stops at the demonstration that something works, like mRNA vaccines, and underestimate the important knowledge agenda associated



THE RESEARCH ROAD MAP

Concordia's research and funding achievements have grown exponentially throughout its history. From the launch of pioneering research centres to landmark events, discover some of the university's defining moments.

1981 Centre for Research in Human Development

The interuniversity research and training hub becomes Concordia's first research centre. It focuses on critical issues in human development, from infancy through old age.

1983 Center for Studies in Behavioral Neurobiology

Researchers at the centre study the neurobiological basis of drug abuse. Other areas of focus include appetitive motivation and the neural, hormonal and psychological processes that maintain homeostasis.

1988 Centre for the Study of Learning and Performance

The multi-institutional research centre advances scholarship on teaching and learning processes and develops new pedagogical tools and practices.

1997 New Rural Economy project

The Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation's 11-year initiative unites rural residents, researchers, policy analysts, the business community and government to tackle key rural issues. In 2000, it receives further funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.

2001 Institute for Research Creation in Media Arts and Technologies / Hexagram

Support from Valorisation-Recherche-Québec and the Canada Foundation for Innovation enables the creation of this research technology infrastructure for new media arts.

2001 Concordia Institute of Aerospace Design and Innovation

Quebec's first aerospace institute, housed in the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science, advances aerospace education and learning, and co-ordinates multi-partner research projects.

2002 Richard J. Renaud Science Complex

The state-of-the-art teaching and research facility helps revitalize Loyola Campus, fostering interdisciplinarity and innovation across science departments.

2005 Solar Buildings Research Network

The interuniversity network develops solar-optimized buildings within an advanced technological system.

2006 Vice-President of Research and Graduate Studies

Concordia elevates its top research position to a VP level.

2011 Funding for key research facilities

With \$80 million in Knowledge Infrastructure Program funding, Concordia opens the Centre for Structural and Functional Genomics and the PERFORM Centre on Loyola Campus, supporting interdisciplinary research in genomics and health prevention, respectively. The grant also funds the Solar Simulator – Environmental Chamber in the Henry F. Hall Building, advancing solar energy and building-technology research.

2016 Milieux

An outgrowth of Hexagram, the institute promotes research-creation at the intersection of fine arts, digital culture and information technology.

2017 Genome Foundry

The pioneering facility employs the latest in robotic instrumentation to enable synthetic biologists to execute work at significant scales and speeds.

2019 Canada Excellence Research Chair (CERC) in Smart, Sustainable and Resilient Cities and Communities

Ursula Eicker becomes the university's first CERC, leading the Next-Generation Cities Institute with \$10 million in funding. The institute brings together researchers to explore sustainable urban development.

2020 Applied Science Hub

The advanced Loyola Campus facility encourages interdisciplinary collaboration through labs and research spaces, supporting fields like agriculture, health and sustainable development.

2022 Cybersecurity consortium

The Government of Canada provides \$76.4 million for the National Cybersecurity Consortium, which establishes the Cyber Security Innovation Network. Concordia co-leads the network, advancing cybersecurity in Canada.

2023 Volt-Age

With a \$123-million Canada First Research Excellence Fund grant – the largest in its history – Concordia launches an electrification research program focused on innovative energy sources, critical infrastructure and affordable green energy for communities across Canada.

2023 Abundant Intelligences

Computation arts professor Jason Edward Lewis secures a \$23-million New Frontiers of Research Fund Transformation grant to co-lead Abundant Intelligences, an international project merging Indigenous knowledge with innovative AI technologies.



“There is a strong culture of delivery and impact at Concordia, which will continue to distinguish us from other universities.”

– Tim Evans

with ensuring those new technologies/vaccines are taken up by those who need them. This means investing in understanding how decisions are made, how supply chains are managed, how procurement systems work — all areas where knowledge helps get things to scale,” he adds.

“Relative to other university settings, it appears there’s more willingness and expertise in Concordia’s research system to drive research across discovery through to real-world applications and outcomes.”

ADVANCING HEALTH THROUGH RESEARCH

Evans, who earned his medical degree from McMaster University and has worked extensively in areas of global health research and policy, also sees Concordia’s burgeoning School of Health filling an important void.

“There are plenty of schools that develop clinicians to take care of sick people and that develop public-health professionals to advise on sanitation or infectious-disease risk,” he notes. “But we don’t have in the health space a school that trains people to be effective problem-solvers with discrete skills that enable them to navigate and negotiate change, be it to bring new technologies to market, to enable communities to lead on healthy aging or to improve the management of the health workforce.”

He adds, “By filling this gap through research, education and service, Concordia’s School of Health brings a focus that is complementary to more traditional schools of medicine, nursing and public health in Quebec, Canada and globally.”

‘A WELLSPRING OF KNOWLEDGE’

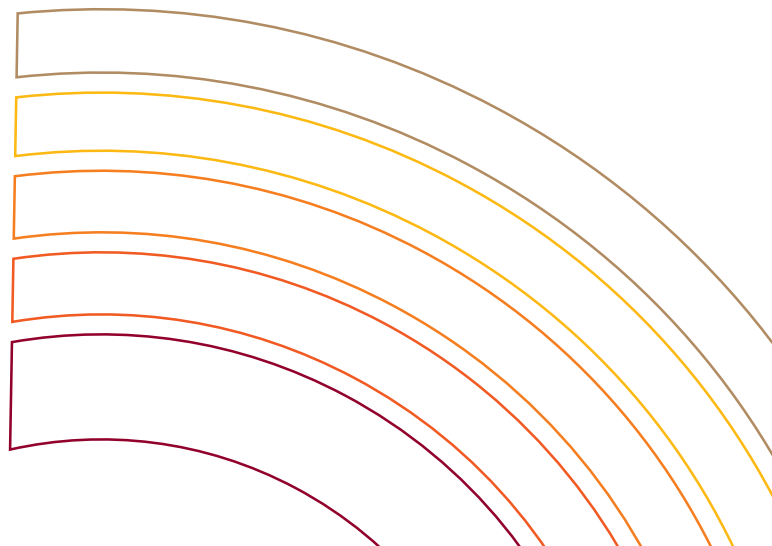
While the societal value of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) research — from health to cybersecurity and beyond — is self-evident, Evans emphasizes the worth of knowledge acquired across other fields.

“If you think about research as needed to solve big conundrums facing humanity, there is no single discipline that’s going to deliver a silver bullet,” he says. “There’s an advantage to having a diversity of disciplines contribute, and sometimes that diversity comes from unusual places.”

He’s particularly impressed, for instance, by the work being done by Concordia’s Department of Creative Arts Therapies. “Who would have thought that drama, art and music have any role with respect to physical and mental health? In fact, they’re showing how these can be used to help in the management of post-traumatic stress disorder and in diminishing rates of cognitive decline among the elderly,” he says.

Mining Concordia’s expertise from all four faculties is fundamental to Concordia’s objective to achieve greater impact, Evans adds.

“Recognizing that diversity is a wellspring of knowledge, moving forward there are boundless opportunities that transcend disciplines, sectors and borders to create knowledge that contributes to our economic, environmental and social well-being.” ■





FROM IDEAS TO IMPACT

Concordia jumped to the forefront of disseminating knowledge to the public when it introduced Spectrum, its open-access digital repository, in 2010. The resource unlocks access to decades of faculty and graduate-student research, including theses, dissertations, articles, conference papers and more, dating back to 1970. Learn about some of the award-winning and thought-provoking PhD theses from each decade, all available on Spectrum.

1980 Leo W. Bertley, PhD 80:

The Universal Negro Improvement Association of Montreal, 1917-1979, history; supervisor: Cameron Nish. Bertley's thesis examined the significant role in promoting social, educational and cultural activities among Black Montrealers played by the Montreal division of the Universal Negro Improvement Association.

1993 Eric R. Gedajlovic, MBA 88,

PhD 93: *A cross-national study of corporate governance, strategy and firm performance*, administration; supervisor: Jean B. McGuire. Gedajlovic used cross-sectional data from 1,030 international firms over the 1985-90 fiscal years.

2002 Cynthia Imogen Hammond, MA 96, PhD 02: *Wings, Gender and Architecture: Remembering Bath, England*, humanities; supervisor: Janice Helland. Hammond, now a Concordia professor of art history,

won the 2002 Governor General's Academic Gold Medal. In her thesis, she uncovers women's influence on Bath's 19th-century architecture.

2011 Aidin Mehdipour, PhD 11: *Advanced Carbon-Fiber Composite Materials for Shielding and Antenna Applications*, electrical and computer engineering; supervisors: Christopher W. Trueman and Abdel R. Sebak. Mehdipour won the 2011 Governor General's Academic Gold Medal and the 2012 Doctoral Prize in Engineering and Computer Science and Concordia University Distinguished Doctoral Dissertation Prize in Engineering and Natural Sciences. His research investigates the electromagnetic properties of carbon composite as a lighter and stronger alternative to aluminum as a shield against electromagnetic radiation on modern aircraft.

2023 Gabrielle Mandl, BSc 17, PhD 23:

On the Development of Praseodymium-Doped Radioluminescent Nanoparticles and Their Use in X-ray Mediated Photodynamic Therapy of Glioblastoma Cells, chemistry; supervisor: John Capobianco. Mandl won the 2024 CGS/ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation Award for mathematics, physical sciences and engineering, and the 2024 IUPAC-Solvay International Award for Young Chemists. Her PhD research focused on designing radioluminescent nanoparticles for use in an emerging cancer treatment and demonstrated how, when combined with the molecule protoporphyrin IX, they could help destroy glioblastoma cells.

Learn more at

spectrum.library.concordia.ca.



FASHION *forward* *forward* *forward*

50 years of campus style



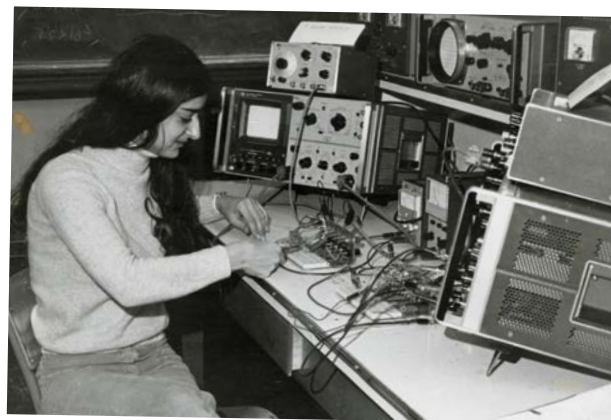
Discover the
trends that shaped
student life from
1974 to today

SANDRA EVOUGHLIAN

As Concordia commemorates five decades as an institution, take a look back at its history through the evolving fashions of its students. From the bold, rebellious styles of the 1970s and the statement-making looks of the 1980s to the eclectic mix of the new millennium, photos from the university's Records Management and Archives illustrate how Concordians have both mirrored and shaped the trends of their time.

1970s

Braving the ice and snow, Concordia students keep warm in shearling and fur, tailored coats with wide collars and plaid fabrics. One individual stands out with a horseshoe moustache, square aviator glasses and a shag haircut, while another opts for a bold metallic jacket. As synthetic textiles gained popularity, fashion experimentation became more accessible.



At the 1974 Science and Engineering Open House, a student sits in front of electronic equipment, pairing a turtleneck sweater with wide-legged jeans. As feminist discourse began to challenge normative beauty standards in the 1970s, many women embraced a more natural and comfortable style.

1980s

At a graduation party, attendees channel goth and new-wave fashion. Two individuals embrace Victorian-era influences by accessorizing their shirt collars with jewellery. The scene is a mix of oversized androgynous suits, slicked-back hair and lightning bolt earrings. Students here wear winklepicker-inspired shoes — including a pair in a bold leopard print — a staple that still appears in today's goth subculture.



British rock icons such as the Beatles and the Rolling Stones popularized mod and shag haircuts, which later made way for the mullet. Against this backdrop of evolving style, a group of Concordia students — dressed in utilitarian coats, wide-legged and flared pants, and tall boots — take part in the 1979 Winter Carnival snow sculpture contest.



1990s

Brands like Calvin Klein, Ralph Lauren and Tommy Hilfiger played a key role in the rise of casual dress and preppy sportswear, reflecting an aspirational lifestyle. In this 1991 Homecoming photo, Stingers fans celebrate at Loyola Stadium during the Shrine Bowl football game.



Denim, denim and more denim! Below left, Liberal Arts College student Robin McKenna does a cartwheel wearing classic overalls. On the right, students stroll across Loyola Campus wearing jeans and flannel shirts, highlighting grunge fashion and the pared-down aesthetics of 1990s minimalism — a transition away from the bold patterns and statements of the previous decade.

Casual Fridays became a fixture of North American office culture in the 1990s. Recognizing an opportunity to redefine corporate attire, Levi's developed "A Guide to Casual Businesswear." The pamphlet encouraged a new corporate aesthetic, recommending khaki pants and polo shirts, among other relaxed-yet-polished options. In a nod to another hallmark of the era — the beige desktop computer — student staff members of *Volute: Concordia Fine Arts Magazine* hold up their special CD-ROM issue.



2000s

Mario Ciaramicoli, BEng '02, then president of the Engineering and Computer Science Students' Association, wears a bucket hat and analog sports watch. From the 1980s to the 2000s, companies like Timex and Casio pioneered innovative features that transformed some watches into wearable computers, laying the groundwork for today's smartwatches.



Minimalist, slim-fit silhouettes continued to dominate formal wear and smart casual attire in the early aughts. Here, Co-op students acquire experiential learning experience at the Canadian Space Agency in 2004.



2010s

Students pose with Stingers football players who helped them move into Concordia's residences in 2017. By the late 2010s, straight-leg denim emerged as a trendy alternative to skinny jeans. Meanwhile, street-style photography elevated sneakers as a key element of the "high-low" look, where casual and dressier pieces are paired together for a stylish contrast.



2020s



In recent years, as consumers have become aware of the environmental toll of fast fashion, many have turned to sustainable alternatives like thrifting and upcycling. Influencers on social media and second-hand shopping platforms offer inspiration with creative outfit ideas that showcase unique pieces. In response, fast-fashion brands have begun to replicate thrifted items and the personal style they represent. At Concordia's annual Parents Tent, students embrace a new cycle of fashion by mixing pieces inspired by past trends: grunge, boho and late-1990s revival, among others. ■

NATURE'S MEDICINE

Researchers and alumni highlight the benefits of connecting with the great outdoors

KAY PETTIGREW, BA 22

With one mittened hand cupped to her ear earlier this spring, Sophie Monkman, BA 14, listened to the faint creaking of the winter trees.

"We're built to hear these landscapes," she explained. "The red-winged blackbirds recently returned to the pond in [Montreal's] Jarry Park. I walk here with my dog every day and was so heartened to hear them. It helps you feel rooted in a place and reassures you that the seasons are unfolding as they should."

Monkman is a nature and forest therapy guide, drawn to the profession through her climate activism and driven by her own struggle with the mental-health impacts of living through climate catastrophe.

Her experience is part of a phenomenon termed "ecoanxiety," a rising concern as people grapple with the ongoing environmental crisis.

This challenge has led Monkman, along with Concordia researchers and alumni, to explore evidence-based practices to improve mental health through deeper connections with nature.

"We're all neurologically wired to connect with the natural world, regardless of our background, upbringing, society or the country we live in," she says. "Culture plays a big role, but fundamentally, we feel our best in natural spaces."

"We are all neurologically wired to connect with the natural world."

- Sophie Monkman

HEALING IN NATURE

Forest therapy has its roots in *shirin-yoku*, or "forest bathing," a practice that emerged in Japan in response to urbanization during the tech boom of the 1980s. Unlike traditional Western psychology and talk therapy, it emphasizes somatic engagement with the natural world.

The health benefits of spending time in nature are well-documented: Exposure to nature positively affects our mental health, cognitive functioning and, according to Monkman, even our immune systems.

"Forest environments can enhance our well-being in many ways, whether it's through biodiversity or even phytoncides — organic compounds released by trees that can boost our immune systems and increase natural killer cells [a type of white blood cell]," she explains.

A forest therapy session with Monkman focuses on slowing down to cultivate "a particular quality of attention," which can even be practised in urban landscapes. Through guided walks, she invites participants to engage their senses: noticing the feeling of wind on their skin, observing ice cracks underfoot or pausing to take in the scent of a pine tree in a park.

"It's a simple practice, but the more we allow our nervous systems to bathe in it, the more we acclimate those modes of being," says Monkman. "And the better we work those muscles, the more easily we can access them in any environment."

RESTORING CONNECTION

While the practice of reconnecting with nature offers healing for many, for Indigenous communities, their relationship with the land has been disrupted in ways that continue to impact their health and well-being.

First Peoples Studies professor Catherine Kineweskew Richardson's work highlights how colonial policies have caused these harms while emphasizing Indigenous resistance, resilience and healing.

According to Kineweskew Richardson, who teaches at Concordia's School of Community and Public Affairs and is a member of the Métis Nation with Cree and Gwich'in roots, this divide is rooted in settler colonialism, which has particularly harmed the health and well-being of Indigenous peoples.

"In which pamphlets does it state that having one's land stolen is bad for one's health?" she asks.





“There’s joy, confidence and empowerment in sharing different practices and paradigms.”

– Menelik Blackburn-Philip

“When you think of colonialism in northern Turtle Island or Canada, a lot of harm was done: taking people’s land away, taking their children away, putting children in the care of white, middle-class families and residential schools,” she says.

“They wanted the Earth, but also what was under it — and they still do.”

Kineweskew Richardson, who also serves as Concordia University Research Chair (CURC) in Indigenous Healing Knowledges, explains that this reality is often left out of contemporary discourses on the social determinants of health. Her book, *Facing the Mountain: Indigenous Healing in the Shadow of Colonialism*, investigates how land theft is linked to labelling Indigenous peoples’ responses — including resistance and survivance — as mental illness.

She says these labels justify state intervention and control, which compound negative health impacts for Indigenous peoples. Her research on response-based practice in healing professions examines how these health impacts emerge within broader historical and social contexts.

“I have a chapter about the radiation exposure from uranium mining in Canada’s north, particularly in the Northwest Territories,” she says. “My family experienced radiation poisoning that negatively affected children born in my



CATHERINE KINWESKEW
RICHARDSON

family, including myself, leading to mobility issues and many surgeries. That’s the kind of thing that mining does.”

In her role as research chair, Richardson gathers Elders, Knowledge Keepers and youth from around the world to share and exchange knowledge.

“We host conferences where participants can exchange teachings, experiences and feelings. Then, the youth interview the Knowledge Keepers and publish academic papers together in a peer-reviewed journal.”

In an Indigenous worldview, she adds, humans have responsibilities to each other and the natural world in an infinite cycle of exchange and reciprocity. Protecting the natural environment is also a means of protecting human health, and vice versa.

“We’re here on this planet with the air, animals, birds, flowers, trees — all life forms. We’re all in a constant exchange and connection, whether that’s literally, energetically or metaphorically.”

ROOTS OF RESILIENCE

Reclaiming land access is not just about environmental sustainability — it’s also about restoring cultural identity, community resilience and food sovereignty. This principle is at the heart of the Sankofa Farming Co-operative, which works to empower Black-Indigenous individuals through agriculture.

Restoring access to land, especially through agricultural practices, motivated Menelik Blackburn-Philip, BA 22, to co-found Sankofa on Loyola Campus in 2022. The student-run organic garden provides Black-Indigenous individuals with opportunities to grow their own food, drawing from traditional agricultural practices and learning from local Indigenous communities.

The co-operative's harvest supports Black-Indigenous communities in need. Blackburn-Philip also led a successful four-week breakfast program at Loyola, collaborating with campus groups such as the Concordia Food Coalition and the People's Potato to provide meals for youth in the community.

"We spent time on the land, explaining the foods we grow and why we grow them," they say. "We also talked about what the relationship to a plant could look like, depending on who you are and your cultural background."

For Blackburn-Philip, time spent in the garden provides more than healthy, fresh food; it fosters community.

"It gives you your roots. There's a sense of happiness, completion and alignment with why you're here," they say. "There's joy, confidence and empowerment in sharing different practices and paradigms."

He adds that the history of forced migration and agricultural labour has impacted many people in his communities, affecting access to traditional foods and their sense of belonging in a farming environment. The Sankofa project highlights resilience and survival of these communities by reconnecting people with the land and each other.

"It brings a lot of awareness to people — a reminder that we come from knowledgeable, intelligent, land-changing peoples. Some were brought here forcibly, yet were able to learn from the land in relation to Indigenous peoples and survived for hundreds of years.

"This nation-to-nation relationship connects us and allows us to share ancestral knowledge of seeds and techniques — and even discover commonalities."

THE NEXT GENERATION

For high-school art teacher Isabelle Guillard, BFA 98, PhD 23, connecting youth with nature is essential. At Curé-Antoine-Labelle high school in Laval, her students have created an eco-art garden that features flower beds, a nursery with edible plants and a sculpture composed of willow arches.

Students from the school's art, science and special-education classes participate in growing and learning about the plants, but the space also provides a refuge from a busy academic life.

"It's nice to be outside the walls of the classroom," Guillard says. "The garden is the only space at school to recuperate!"

Students work collaboratively with a team of teachers led by Guillard, a visual artist whose doctoral research at Concordia explored the value of outdoor education for teenagers.

While integrating the approach at the secondary level can be challenging, she is optimistic about the positive health impacts.



ISABELLE GUILLARD

"Our kids need experiences that allow them to develop their creativity, express themselves and accomplish things on their own," she says.

"By communicating and creating links with the people and environment around us, we develop confidence in ourselves and in our abilities, and we develop a sense of responsibility. It makes students aware of their impact."

Emma Despland, a professor in Concordia's Department of Biology, has witnessed first-hand how early nature connectedness benefits young adults. She notes that many first-year students enter the program with a passion for conservation, yet are unable to identify common plants and trees in the real world.

"Students come in passionate about the natural world and species extinction, but a lot of their knowledge is theoretical. You take them outside and ask them to identify a tree, and they haven't had that experience," she says. "That limited understanding of biology affects their employment opportunities.

It's an education gap that we assume people are getting through childhood — but they're not."

In response, Despland and student researchers Ashley Spanier-Levasseur and Lindsay Doyle, BA 23, turned a study on nature connectedness into a community outreach project. Joining forces with city-run day camps, the Finding Urban Nature (F.U.N.) project unites Montreal youth with urban greenspaces. Many participants have never experienced nature walks or insect and fauna observation.

"We are bringing kids outside, showing them the urban gardening we're doing on campus, inviting them to touch a tree, feed some birds," Despland explains. "Many kids, especially those living in the city, have not had this experience."

She highlights the invaluable physical, mental and social health benefits of outdoor activities for children and youth, though stresses that limited access to these opportunities can lead to serious repercussions.

"We are experiencing negative health impacts from an unnatural lifestyle that cuts us off from the natural world. The negative health effects related to being sedentary include mental-health issues and more," says Despland. "From a developmental perspective, what people experience as children will influence their overall health later on.

"We cannot silo health — we are all connected." ■



EMMA DESPLAND



THE CONCORDIA GREENHOUSE

A ROOFTOP OASIS

Tucked away on the 13th floor of Concordia's Henry F. Hall Building is a hidden, almost tropical, haven: the Concordia Greenhouse.

Although it is currently closed to the public until fall 2025 due to nearby renovations, the greenhouse has remained an integral part of the university since the Hall Building opened in 1966. At that time, it was created for research and education by the Department of Biology, in addition to providing space for a horticulturalist to grow, house and sell plants.

Today, it is home to a thriving ecosystem of both plants and people. Volunteers and staff nurture seedlings and cultivate "marginalized vegetables" with working group Hamidou Horticulture. Students learn herbalism through the City Herbal Apprenticeship Program. Through guest projects, community members can experiment with growing techniques. And each spring, the greenhouse is abuzz with its popular annual seedling sale.

Beyond its role in urban agriculture, the space also provides a balm to harsh Canadian winters.

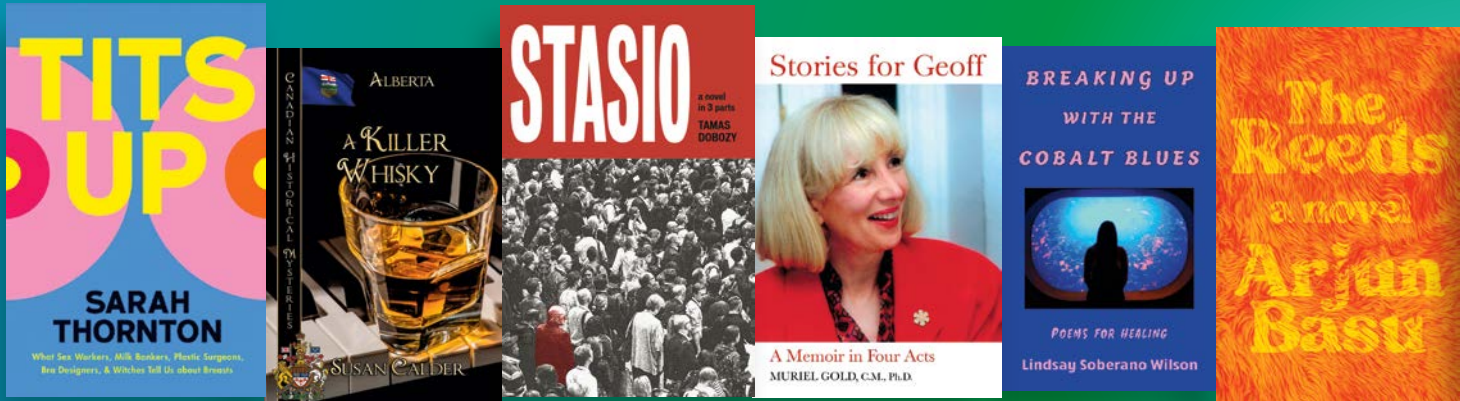
"In the study area, students can take a moment, hang out, eat lunch and attend student-led events and workshops," explains Dylan Kinsman, GrCert 21, outreach and communications co-ordinator and current BA student.

A recent survey on place attachment and well-being revealed that some of the university's international students rely on the greenhouse as a welcome refuge to help them adjust to living in Montreal's greyer, colder winter climate.

For many others, it's the warmth, abundance of natural light and relaxing atmosphere that keeps them coming back.

"Everyone has their own purpose for being here," Kinsman says. "But if you know about the space, you want to be here."

Novels, memoirs, poetry and other creative works by Concordia alumni



IAN HARRISON,
B COMM 01

Sarah Thornton, BFA 87, dives into the world of women's chests in ***Tits Up: What Sex Workers, Milk Bankers, Plastic Surgeons, Bra Designers and Witches Tell Us About Breasts*** (WW Norton, \$27.99).

After undergoing a double mastectomy, Thornton set out to uncover what had been lost — and gained — in her journey. A *New Yorker* Best Book of 2024, *Tits Up* challenges centuries of patriarchal myths and aims to liberate breasts from harmful stereotypes.

History comes to life in ***A Killer Whisky*** (BWL Publishing, \$18.99), a mystery by **Susan Calder**,

BA 88, set in Calgary during the 1918 influenza pandemic and the final days of the First World War. When a man dies after drinking whisky laced with a drug that mimics the flu's symptoms, a doctor's receptionist teams up with a detective to uncover the truth behind his death.

Tamas Dobozy, MA 93, explores political intrigue and personal despair in ***Stasio: A Novel in Three Parts*** (Anvil Press, \$22), a detective novel told through three distinct novellas. The book follows Anthony de Stasio as he gets caught up in a cursed firearm, the torment of a daughter trapped by her father's control, and a mysterious utopian cult exploiting street kids.

Stories for Geoff: A Memoir in Four Acts (MIRI Productions, \$22.95) by **Muriel Gold**, PhD 94, offers a feminist reflection on love, relationships and career. Written as stories to her grandson, the memoir traces Gold's childhood in the 1930s and 1940s, marriage in the 1950s, divorce and her evolution in theatre and the arts.

In ***Breaking Up With the Cobalt Blues: Poems for Healing*** (Prolific Pulse Press LLC, \$17.95), **Lindsay Soberano Wilson**, BA 06, MA 09, navigates the painful, messy and often inconvenient parts of life to find peace and light in the darkness. Through powerful poems on themes such as addiction and

intergenerational trauma, Wilson inspires readers to embrace healing and self-empowerment.

Arjun Basu, BA 90, explores family dynamics and societal change in ***The Reeds*** (ECW Press, \$24.95). Set in Montreal's west end, the novel follows a loving yet dysfunctional family navigating a summer of personal transformation amid the shifting landscapes of commerce, fame and global challenges like Brexit and climate anxiety.

Chiara Laricchiuta, MA 09, offers a powerful poetic journey in ***North Star*** (AOS Publishing, \$19.99), a collection that invites readers to awaken to their true purpose.



Through courage, hard work and self-love, the poems inspire a quest for personal fulfillment and the realization of one's potential.

Tragedy of a Shapeshifter (Amazon, \$32), a novel co-authored by **Leon Botwinik**, BSc 82, and his son Nathaniel, follows Alex, who transforms into a different person every month in 1996 New York. As he grapples with this mysterious condition, Alex faces questions about his identity, stability and the harsh realities of a city filled with discrimination, sexual exploitation and crime.

In **Make Life Colorful** (Amazon, \$19.99), **Omid Vafa**, BA 97, offers an inspiring guide to living

a purposeful life through creativity and personal growth. With a foreword by the Dalai Lama, the book encourages readers to pursue their passions and embrace change. Vafa, also the founder of the non-profit Runway for Hope, uses his expertise in global business and dedication to youth empowerment to offer practical insights that help readers design a life filled with meaning.

Josée Saint-Martin, BA 90, explores her family's hidden history in *La petite Polonaise* (Self-published, \$25), a deeply personal journey that begins with the discovery of her biological grandmother's name — Julia Stasica — after her mother's death. Inspired by true events, the story traces

Julia's life from her great-grandparents' arrival in Canada in 1917 to her death in 1998.

After studying sound engineering at Concordia, **Marc La Ferrière**, BA 87, worked in radio and television before transitioning to a job in national security. His new self-published memoir, *D'ici à là*, chronicles what became a decades-long career in counterintelligence and counterterrorism with the federal government.

Sue-Anne Hickey, BA 85, has authored **Bodytypology: A System for Optimal Health and Weight Loss** (Hockwald Press, \$21.99), a personalized approach to health that rejects one-size-fits-all diets. As a naturopath

and weight-loss specialist, Hickey offers a customized system based on body type, with easy-to-understand strategies and nutritious recipes for lasting health and weight management.

In **Finding the Suite Spot: Preparing YOUR Journey into the Boardroom** (Kendall Hunt, \$34.55), **Constantine Constandis**, BComm 79, Matthäus Tekathen, chair and associate professor in Concordia's Department of Accountancy, and part-time lecturer **Ian Gergovich**, BComm 80, GrDip 82, delve into the boardroom dynamics faced by C-suite leaders. Complementing real-life executive experience with academic insight, the authors provide practical guidance for aspiring finance professionals. ■

Ruby Walker is Concordia's
2023-24 undergraduate winner of the
Creative Writing Award for Fiction



RUBY WALKER

Nothing Is Better Than Anything Else

The following is excerpted from a longer work.

I'm one of those guys who started balding in my late twenties, so I bought a baseball cap, it's like a normal baseball cap except it's made of denim, so my ex-wife Lauren called it my "jat", like a jean hat, same way as "jorts" or "jeggings". Anyway believe it or not the jat was the cause of our divorce, which is so stupid it made me cry once actually but I always cry about things like that, not dramatic things, just things that are tiny and ridiculous.

We had the argument in the foyer of our house, which is now her house. She said, *I've figured you out, Davis.*

She kept trying to figure me out like I was a combination lock on a box and there was a great husband inside, if only she could open it. *You don't respect people. When we spoke to Redding you didn't take your hat off.*

She called it "hat", not "jat", because she was mad and didn't want to be funny. *Come on, I said, It's just my jat, I wasn't trying to be rude or anything.*

I called it "jat" not "hat" because I wanted her to remember that we made jokes, and therefore had a good relationship. But she just looked at me with her forehead all pinched up. To be fair we were going through a stressful time. Our son Aiden, who's twelve, had just announced he was a "furry". Lauren was worried this meant he was a sex freak, and apparently that's what his classmates thought too because they spread rumours that he fucked a squirrel in the bushes at the end of the football field, which was why we went to see Principal Redding that afternoon, and Lauren was picking everything apart.

It's polite to take your hat off to make a good impression, especially in the office of an authority figure, she said.

I was sure that she'd have a sharp little dart to throw at every one of my arguments, so I took refuge in not giving a shit, and started talking about dinner plans. I hoped this would disarm her but it was exactly the wrong move. She said, *That's exactly what I'm talking about. If you respected me, you wouldn't ignore me.*

Maybe she really had figured me out. That's what I thought every time she analyzed me, though. I always thought, yeah, that sounds about right. Everything sounds about right to me. That's how I got into this mess. When we were in our late twenties she took the same tone of voice, sort of diagnostic, and told me we were in love.

Anyway she did a whole spiel about how she's always the one putting in the effort, to figure me out, and I told her, *I don't need to figure you out, you tell me every thought you have.*

And she said, *Why don't you try telling me every thought you have, then.*

So I did, and she didn't like my thoughts, basically. It was terrible. I don't really want to go into it.

Anyway once it had all blown over, I started to sense the rotations of The Machine. I mean, I'd always suspected it was there. But lying awake that night, I knew: deep below, something turns. There's something there, man. The world's spinning like a big wind-up toy. I feel it strongest when something happens that makes me go, what the hell, seriously,

why. And the answer is, why not. Like, right after something shatters on the floor, and everyone stands there and looks at it. Or when I hear a story about someone dying in a stupid way, like, falling off a ski lift. Or when my marriage ends because I failed to remove my jat at a meeting about squirrel sex. It's all so underwhelming that it overwhelms me, like, everything's so bullshit, so so so dangerously thin that I feel the vibrations up through my shoes. The vibrations of The Machine. The endless rotation that churns out this big featureless reality and spreads it flat like concrete.

I dunno. Maybe it'll pass. Maybe everyone feels this way when they fail at the one thing they explicitly vowed to do.

It's been a month since me and Lauren split, it's December now. Usually, when winter comes, I put away my jat and start wearing a toque, but I still haven't made the switch. It just feels like it would be a surrender to take the jat off.

Ruby Walker grew up in Toronto and is currently pursuing a BA in creative writing at Concordia. She serves as a prose editor for Soliloquies Anthology. Her work has previously been published in Cold Signal and Pixie Literary Magazine. ■



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1 Alumni and friends gathered on October 30 for a **Montreal Queer History guided tour**, led by **Thom Seivewright**, which explored some of the city's most iconic landmarks through a unique perspective. The event concluded with drinks and conversation at Bar Dominion in downtown Montreal.

2 **In Good Company with KPMG**, a meet-and-greet at KPMG's Montreal offices on November 12, featured remarks from Department of Accountancy chair **Matthäus Tekathen** and **Michael Baratta**, BComm 95, KPMG partner in Audit. The event brought together alumni employed at the firm with other members of the Concordia community.

3 The **Kenneth Woods Portfolio Management Program (KWMPMP)** celebrated the contributions of partners and supporters at a reception held on November 13. Guests enjoyed a keynote presentation from **Bruno Roy**, president and CEO of CN Investment Division, as well as remarks from KWMPMP director **Sukyong Yang**.

4 Concordia Jurist-in-Residence **Morton S. Minc**, BA 67, moderated **In Conversation with Michael Sabia**, with the president and CEO of Hydro-Québec on November 21, as part of the Jurist-in-Residence Conference Series.

5 **President Graham Carr** and **Paul Chesser**, BA 94, GrDip 97, vice-president of Advancement, celebrated Concordia's **50th anniversary in Hong Kong** on November 28 with alumni based in the city. In recognition of exceptional leadership and service to the university, **William Yip** (front centre-right), BA 67, LLD 98, and **Dennis YM Chan** (front centre-left), BComm 77, were honoured with 50th-Anniversary Volunteer Awards.

6 The **Concordia University Inter-Generational Fund** (formerly the Concordia University Foundation) honoured long-time chair **Howard Davidson** (centre left), BComm 80, upon

his retirement, as well as other outgoing members on January 21.

7 Canadian artist **Edward Burtynsky** delivered Concordia's annual **Wild Talks lecture** to a sold-out audience of 650 guests in the Sir George Williams University Alumni Auditorium on January 22. Burtynsky discussed the evolution of his celebrated career with moderator **Zoë Tousignant**, BFA 03, PhD 13, curator of photography at Montreal's McCord Stewart Museum.

8 Alumni and friends came together to kick off the Year of the Snake at a **Lunar New Year dinner** held at Cuisine AuntDai in downtown





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Montreal on January 30.

9 On February 11, **President Graham Carr** hosted a **thank-you dinner** for honorary co-chairs and co-presidents of the annual **Concordia Golf Classic** fundraiser. The event featured guest speaker **Denis Schweizer**, Department of Finance professor.

10 Concordians gathered at the Royal Montreal Curling Club for an **alumni curling**

night on February 27.

11 **John Dore** (centre right), BSc 75, was inducted into the **Concordia University Sports Hall of Fame** as a Builder after the Stingers men's basketball team beat the McGill Redbirds to capture the sixth annual Lengvari Cup on February 20 at Concordia. **George Lengvari** (centre left), BA 63, presented the cup before a near-capacity crowd at

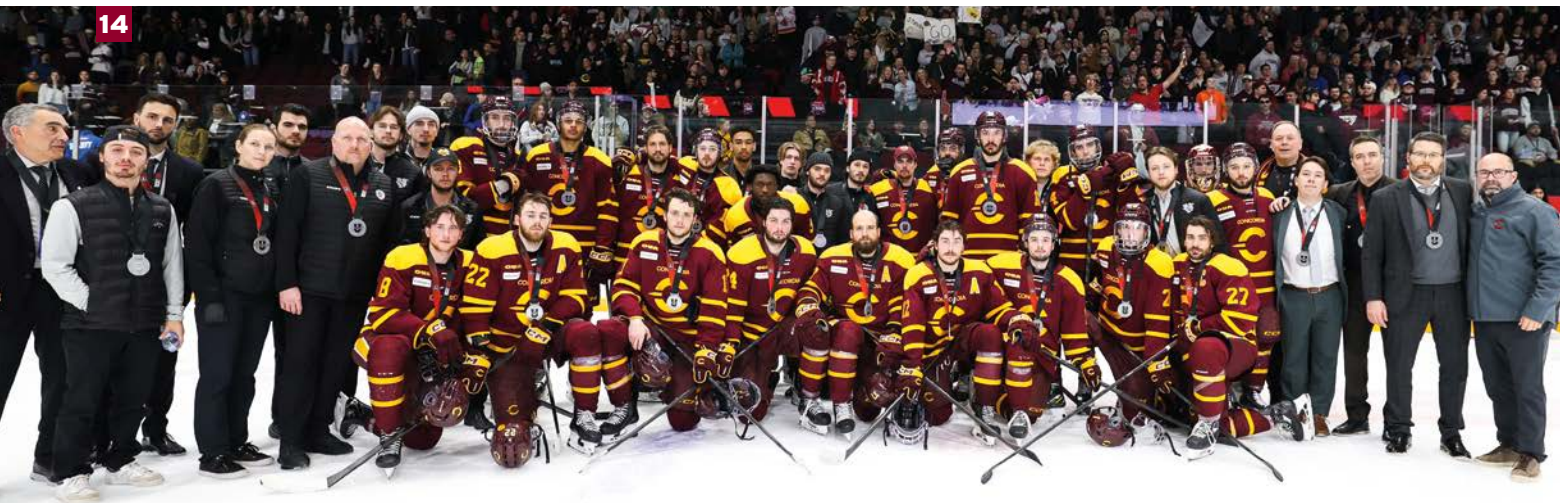
John Dore Court.

12 An **Economics Alumni Networking** reception on March 17 brought graduates back to campus to celebrate Concordia's 50th anniversary with **Pascale Sicotte**, dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science, and **Jorgen Hansen**, Department of Economics chair.

13 The Department of Education marked the **50th anniversary of the MA in**



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Educational Studies and the **45th anniversary of the Adult Education Program** at a reunion with alumni and students on March 20 at Warwick Le Crystal in downtown Montreal.

14 At pre-game receptions and games, alumni and friends cheered on the **Stingers men's and women's hockey teams** as they made deep playoff runs throughout the month of March. The

men returned home with silver from the U Sports nationals — the team's best finish since 1984 — while the women placed fourth overall.

15 **President Graham Carr** and **Paul Chesser**, BA 94, GrDip 97, vice-president of Advancement, hosted a **50th-anniversary alumni reception** at Calgary's National Music Centre on April 1.

16 A **Liberal Arts College alumni reunion** on April 3 featured a lecture by **Zoe Salzman**, BA 03, a Manhattan-based lawyer who has secured settlements for victims of police violence and systemic discrimination, and has successfully litigated #MeToo civil cases. The college's principal, **Jarrett Carty**, and **Christine DeWolf**, vice-dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science, also shared remarks.



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Save the dates!
September 25 – 27
2025

VISIT CONCORDIA.CA/HOMECOMING FOR UPDATES.

50 CONCORDIA



17

17 Concordia welcomed the Honourable **Michelle O'Bonsawin**, Canada's first Indigenous Supreme

Court Justice, for a public conversation with Jurist-in-Residence **Morton S. Minc**, BA 67, on April 3.

At its annual **Alumni Recognition Awards** ceremony, the Concordia University Alumni Association (CUAA) honoured 10 distinguished Concordians on May 12 at Maison Alcan. Emceed by **Debra Arbec**, BA 89, host of *CBC Montreal News at 6*, the event featured remarks from **President Graham Carr** and CUAA president **Nura Jabagi**, MBA 14, PhD 21. The honourees for 2025 are:

1 Kenneth Woods, MBA 75, LLD 17
Humberto Santos Award of Merit and Service

2 Julie Chu
Honorary Life Membership

3 Caroline Ouellette, LLD 19
Honorary Life Membership

4 Yvonne Sam, GrDip 97
Benoît Pelland Alumna of the Year

5 Diane Dunlop-Hébert, BComm 82
Benoît Pelland Alumna of the Year

6 Andrea Limbardi, EMBA 16
MBA Alumna of the Year

7 Zoé Victoria Lord, BSc 19, BSc 22
John F. Lemieux Young Alumna Medal

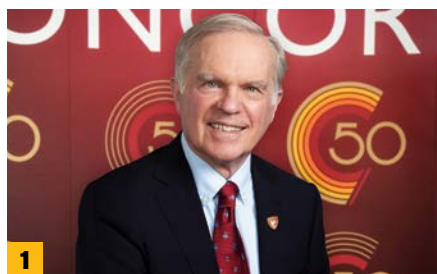
8 Russell Makofsky, BComm 07
International Excellence Award

9 Jessica Winton, BA 25
Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Award

10 Kevin Austin
Outstanding Staff and Faculty Award

11 Matina Skalkogiannis, BA 92, MA 98
Outstanding Staff and Faculty Award

12 Aidan Tecumsah Condo, BA 25
Outstanding Student Leader Award ■



ALUMNI UPDATES

Alumni with more than one degree from Concordia, Sir George Williams University and/or Loyola College are listed under their earliest graduation year.

80 John McMahon, BA, was appointed assistant deputy minister at the Secretariat for Relations with English-Speaking Quebecers.

81 Robert Courteau, BComm, LLD 11, was named interim CEO at Kinaxis Inc.

84 John Zeppetelli, BFA, was named Carol and Morton Rapp Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art at the Art Gallery of Ontario.

87 Caroline Goulian, BComm, GrDip 88, was named chief financial officer at Reitmans (Canada) Limited.

90 Michel Roy, BComm, EMBA 10, was appointed chief commercial officer at Sunshine Biopharma.

91 Caroline Jamet, BA, was named president of Cogeco Media.

92 Martine Gosselin, BA, was appointed National Commissioner for Complaints and Quality of Services at Santé Québec.

Hayley Halsall-Whitney, BA, was named vice-president of Operations at West Red Lake Gold Mines Ltd.

93 Caroline Gagnon, BEng, was named assistant director of the Department of Material Resources at Cégep André-Laurendeau.

Jonathan Ram, BComm, was appointed CEO of Careismatic Brands.

94 Stéphane Cardin, GrDip, was named president and CEO of the Quebec Film and Television Council.

95 Colleen Timm, BA, was appointed deputy president and CEO of the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC).

96 Assunta Tortis, BComm, GrDip 97, was named corporate vice-president of Finance at Yellow Pages Limited.

97 Russell Browne, BA, was appointed global head of Commodities Sales at BMO Capital Markets.

Manon Gauthier, BA, was named executive director of the Audain Foundation.

Alana Klein, BA, was named co-director of the Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism at McGill University's Faculty of Law.

Michael Meligrigoris, BComm, was appointed vice-president, Institutional, at T. Rowe Price Canada.

00 Assunta Gallo, GrCert, BA 01, was named deputy ombudsperson at Protecteur du citoyen.

Roger Tambay, MBA, was named chief growth officer at NatureWorks.

01 Ardem Keshishian, BSc, MBA 06, was appointed vice-president of Corporate Development and Investor Relations at Awalé Resources Limited.

02 Naoum Tabet, BComm, MBA 06, was named Fixed Income Investment director for Canada at Capital Group.

03 Vivek Venkatesh, MA, PhD 08, was appointed to the Fonds de Recherche du Québec (FRQ) Scientific Committee for Society and Culture.

06 Khaled Abdulrahman Al Majed, BComm, was named CEO at Edamah real estate investment company.

Zineb El Jazouli, BCompSc, was appointed director of Public Affairs at Renault Group Maroc.

07 Trevor Hawkins, BA, was appointed country manager at ManpowerGroup Canada.

Falen Jacobs, BA, was named director of Education at the Kahnawake Education Center.

08 Sarah Kemerer, BComm, was named interim executive director of the Junior Chamber of Commerce of Montreal.

Tracy Medve, AMBA, was appointed part-time member of the Transportation Appeal Tribunal of Canada.

09 Maxie Lafleur, BComm, GrDip 13, was named president of Chantier Davie Canada Inc.

10 Christopher Skeete, BA, is now responsible for economic and regional development, and small- and medium-sized enterprises for Quebec's Ministry of Economy, Innovation and Energy.

11 Nicole Burisch, MA, was named director of Concordia's Leonard and Bina Ellen Art Gallery.

Didier Morelli, BA, was named curator of Manif d'art 12, the Quebec City Biennial in 2026.

Alexandre Ryzhikov, BComm, was appointed partner and portfolio manager at LionGuard Capital Management.

Johnnie Vu, BComm, was named Aide-de-Camp to the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario.

13 Shahaf Ozgaon, BComm, was named partner at Richter.

Luciano Renda, BComm, was named partner at Richter.

14 Audrée Anne Barry, BComm, was named an associate at McCarthy Tétrault law firm.

Oliviero Radack, BEng, was appointed director of Business Development and Operations at Acrow Canada.

16 Catherine Sumague, MBA, was appointed chief revenue officer at Natursource.

22 Nicolas Furtado, BComm, was named associate at Colliers Montreal. ■

Richard Pound, BA 63, LLD 10, was named to the Olympic Order, the highest honour bestowed by the International Olympic Committee.

Mutsumi Takahashi, BA 79, MBA 95, LLD 13, chief anchor at CTV News Montreal, was named a Montreal Citizen of Honour by the City of Montreal.

Alan Wainer, BComm 80, was named a fellow of the Chartered Professional Accountants of Ontario.

Francis Scarpaleggia, MBA 84, won the 2024 Chair's Award from the Association of Consulting Engineering Companies-Canada.

Phyllis Lambert, LLD 86, was named a Mies Crown Hall Americas Prize Luminary.

Lucille Proulx, GrDip 86, BFA 93, was awarded an honorary doctorate from the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM).

Robert Frances, BComm 87, MBA 91, was a finalist for *Wealth Professional's* CEO of the Year.

Ioanna Roumeliotis, BA 91, was a finalist for the 2024 Mindset Awards for Mental Health Reporting. She was also recently named co-host of CBC's *The Fifth Estate*.

Serban Ghenea, BFA 92, was nominated for a 2025 Grammy Award in the Best Engineered Album, Non-Classical category.

Jin-Me Yoon, MFA 93, won a Governor General's Award in Visual and Media Arts.

Sara O'Leary, BA 91, MA 94, won the Writers' Trust Vicky Metcalf Award for Literature for Young People.

Benoît-Antoine Bacon, BA 95, received the Special Recognition of Achievement Award from Excellence Canada.

Marie-France Benoit, BComm 95, won a Canadian Women in Real Estate Award.

Johanna Mercier, MBA 97, was named among the Top 50 U.S. Women Chief Commercial Officers of 2024 by Women We Admire.

Frederick Kroetsch, BFA 99, premiered his first television series, *Crip Trip*, in Canada on AMI-tv and TVO.

Serge Godin, LLD 00, was bestowed an EY Entrepreneur Of The Year Quebec 2024 Lifetime Achievement Award.



Muthukumaran Packirisamy, PhD 00, was named a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.

Allison Katz, BFA 03, won the Gershon Iskowitz Prize from the Art Gallery of Ontario.

Sasha Kleinplatz, BFA 04, was awarded the Grand Sages Françoise Sullivan Prize in the Arts.

Clive Robertson, PhD 04, won a Governor General's Award in Visual and Media Arts.

Nicolas Schulman, BA 05, was named among *Wealth Professional's* 2024 5-Star Advisors for Quebec.

Johanna Skibsrud, MA 05, was elected to the Royal Society of Canada.

Khadija Baker, BFA 07, MFA 13, PhD 24, is featured in *Rewilding – the David Suzuki Foundation Arts Prize*, a new exhibition at the Canadian Museum of Nature in Ottawa.

Laurence Mathieu-Léger, BA 07, was a finalist for the 2024 Mindset Award for Mental Health Reporting.

Kevin McLeod, BA 11, was named one of Edmonton's Top 40 Under 40 in 2024 by *Edify Magazine*.

Mishel Wong, BComm 12, was the recipient of a 2024 BMO Celebrating Women Grant Program.

Meryam Joobeur, BFA 13, won the Windsor International Film Festival prize for Canadian film.

Gabriel Millard, BComm 13, was among *Wealth Professional's* Top 40 Under 40 Rising Stars of 2024.

André Joseph Cordeiro, BA 14, received an inaugural Sachedina CTV News Fellowship.

Virginie Nolin, BFA 14, MFA 24, won the Iris Award for Best Live Action Short Film at the Gala Québec Cinéma 2024.

Charles Provost, BComm 14, was named one of Canada's Best Financial Advisors and Professionals Under 40 by *Wealth Professional*.

Pierre Lassonde, LLD 16, was inducted into the Canadian Business Hall of Fame.

2 Danielle Gasher, BA 18, was named to *Forbes' 30 Under 30 North America 2025* list in the Hollywood and Entertainment category.

Kim Thúy, LLD 17, received an honorary doctorate from Université du Québec à Montréal.

Orlane Panet, BComm 18, was named among the Top 25 Women of Influence by Women of Influence+, and named a *Report on Business* Changemaker.

Sabrina Reeves, MA 19, was the winner of the 2024 Quebec Writer's Federation's Concordia University First Book Prize, and the Paragraphe Hugh MacLennan Prize for Fiction.

Fatine-Violette Sabiri, BFA 20, won the Pierre-Ayt Prize for emerging artists. **Laïla Mestari**, BFA 17, was a finalist.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to our **Concordia University Alumni Association (CUAA)** for its generous support as proud sponsor of Concordia's 50th-anniversary celebrations.

Learn more about the benefits and programs offered by the CUAA at concordia.ca/CUAA.



#CUalumni

Guy Cormier, LLD 22, was bestowed the Adm.A. Emeritus distinction from the Ordre des administrateurs agréés.

Jennifer Flanagan, DSc 22, was named among the Top 25 Women of Influence by Women of Influence+.

Kessie Theliar-Charles, BFA 21, MA 23, was awarded the Price McIntosh Bursary from Library and Archives Canada.

Patrice Vermette, BA 23, was nominated for an Academy Award for Production Design for *Dune: Part II*.

3 Pedro Barbáchano, MFA 24, won the 2025 Claudine and Stephen Bronfman Fellowship in Contemporary Art. The fellowship supports two fine-arts grads — one from Concordia and one from the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM). This year's winners take home \$88,000 over two years — a top prize for emerging artists in Canada.

ORDER OF CANADA

Two Concordians are among the latest appointees to the Order of Canada announced in December 2024 by Governor General Mary Simon. The country's top honour recognizes exceptional contributions to the nation.

Dominique Lemieux, BFA 81, Officer

Fabienne Colas, LLD 24, Member

2



3



INSTALLATION VIEW OF PEDRO BARBÁCHANO'S *FLOODING MONUMENTS*, 2024

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Hakim Hajoui, BEng 06
Ambassador of Morocco
to the United Kingdom



Chloé Robichaud, BFA 10
Film director



Daniele Hamamdjian, BA 06
Foreign correspondent, NBC News



Hugo Germain, BComm 02
Vice-president, Operations, Germain Hôtels



Richard Howe, BEng 88
CEO, Inuvo



Myriam Montrat, MA 98
Canada's High Commissioner to Ghana,
Togo and Sierra Leone

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KING CHARLES III CORONATION MEDAL

The King Charles III Coronation Medals are awarded to people who have made a significant contribution to their community, province, territory or country, or have made outstanding achievements abroad. Among the recent recipients are a number of Concordians:

Graham Carr, Concordia President and Vice-Chancellor
Gina Cody, MEng 81, PhD 89, Concordia chancellor
Anne-Marie Croteau, dean, John Molson School of Business
George Lengvari, BA 63
Joseph Panunto, BA 66
Joseph Broccolini, BComm, 78
Mutsumi Takahashi, BA 79, MBA 95, LLD 13
Lillian Vineberg-Goodman, BFA 83
Paul André Savoie, BComm 89
Parsa Famili, BSc 91, MSc 93
Dimitris Ilias, BFA 92, GrDip 99, and wife Maria Diamantis
Carole Brazeau, BA 94
Norma Baumel Joseph, PhD 95
Fatemeh Davoudi, BA 96
Rana Ghorayeb, BA 97, MEng 01
Sharon Nelson, BSc 97, BEng 10
Allison Saunders, GrDip 99
Jeff Bicher, BA 02
Daniel Héroux, BEng 08
Lisa Qiluqqi Koperqualuk, BA 08
Gabriel Bran Lopez, BA 08
Nilab Ferroz, BEng 14
Kenneth Atsenhaienton Deer, LLD 15
Antonia Macris, BA 17, MEnv 21, MA 22
Alexander Sinora, BComm 17
Miriam Roland, LLD 18
Alexander Sinora, BComm 18
Lorne Trottier, DSc 18
Caroline Ouellette, LLD 19
Kanella Voudouris, MA 00
Jamie Fabian, BA 22
Nicole Nashen, BA 22
Marcela Paredes, BA 23
Fabienne Colas, LLD 24
Kerwins Saint-Jean, undergraduate student
Marion Thénault, undergraduate student
Perry Calce, Concordia staff member
Julie Chu, head coach, Stingers women's hockey
Paul John Murdoch, member, Board of Governors
Kahsennenhawe Sky-Deer, member, President's Advisory Group
Cathy Wong, former member, Board of Governors ■

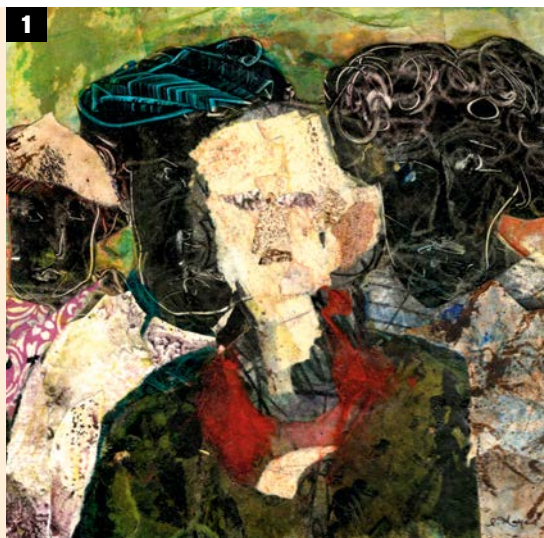
1 **Rochelle Mayer**, BComm 84, BFA 10, took part in the Women's Art Studio 2024 Exhibition from October 30 to November 3. More than 150 people visited the exhibition at Montreal's Galerie Erga, where two of Mayer's works – "Le Clan I" and "Le Clan II" – were on display. **1)** "Le Clan II," collage and mixed media. rochellemayer.ca

2 "Glissement," a large-scale digital artwork by **Chloé Beaulac**, BFA 10, premieres at the Anecy Paysage exhibition in France from July 4 to September 21, 2025. The artwork transforms a stone wall into a *trompe-l'œil* that evokes the architecture of a Roman aqueduct, juxtaposing Anecy's natural beauty with a reimagined industrial landscape in Quebec. **2)** "Glissement," digital prints on aluminum panels, 2025. chloebeaulac.com

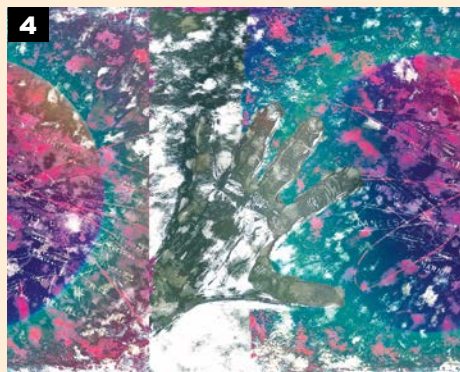
3 **Annie Briard**, BFA 08, presented her first solo Los Angeles show at Royale Projects from November 16, 2024, to February 25, 2025. *Through the Walls of Gold* showcased Briard's new body of lens-based installations, which she produced during two residencies at High Desert Test Sites in California's Joshua Tree National Park. **3)** *Through the Walls of Gold* installation, 2024-25. anniebriard.com

4 An artwork by **Raymonde Jodoin**, BFA 83, was on display at the 19th International Digital Miniprint Exhibition from April 17 to May 30, 2025. Under this year's theme, *Déviations cartographiques*, 55 artists from 11 countries reinterpreted maps and territories, challenging fixed notions of borders, scale and place. **4)** "Lignes de main, manifestation #2"

5 New artworks by **Shelley Freeman**, BFA 99, are on display at L'Artothèque gallery in Montreal until May 17, 2025. *Traces* – a duo exhibition with Wendy A. Thomas – explores urban structures and natural formations that blur the line between the visible and imperceptible. Freeman's compositions show slow changes over time and reveal traces of human and animal life, as well as fragments of the memories and ideas that remain indefinitely. **5)** "Precipice," oils on panel, 2025. shelleyfreeman.ca



RUBEN DIAZ



Murray Sinclair (1951–2024)

Lifelong champion of Indigenous rights

The Honourable Murray Sinclair — former senator, judge and chair of Canada’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) — passed away on November 4, 2024. He was 73.

“Justice Sinclair challenged all Canadians, including those of us in the university sector, to learn our nation’s shameful history of oppression and violence against Indigenous peoples,” said Concordia President Graham Carr. “We should be eternally grateful for his leadership and resolve, and for sparking the movement towards healing and reconciliation.”



Born in Selkirk, Manitoba, Sinclair was raised by his grandparents. He graduated from law school in 1979 and began practising a year later. His legal career focused on civil and criminal litigation,

Indigenous law and human rights. In 1988, he became Manitoba’s first Indigenous judge — and Canada’s second — and was later named co-commissioner of the province’s Aboriginal Justice Inquiry.

From 2009 to 2015, Sinclair chaired the TRC, documenting the experiences of residential school survivors and raising awareness of the injustices faced by Indigenous communities. He was appointed to the Senate of Canada in 2016 and retired in 2021.

Sinclair was recognized with Canada’s Meritorious Service Cross in 2015 and was named Companion of the Order of Canada in 2021. The following year, Concordia awarded him the Loyola Medal, the university’s highest non-academic honour. ■

Henry Beissel (1929–2025)

Renowned author, playwright, poet and translator

Distinguished writer, poet, playwright, translator and editor Henry E. Beissel passed away on January 9, 2025. He was 95.

Born in Cologne, Germany, in 1929, Beissel emigrated to Canada at the age of 22. He taught English literature at Concordia for 30 years, first joining Sir George Williams University — one of Concordia’s founding institutions — in 1966.

At the invitation of Concordia’s first rector, John E. O’Brien, BA 45, Beissel developed the Creative Writing program and later helped establish Concordia’s Liberal Arts College in 1978.

Beissel authored more than

30 publications, including *Inuk and the Sun*, which premiered at the Stratford Festival in 1973. His play *The Emigrants* (1981) and his translation of *Hedda Gabler* (1982) were both performed at the Saidye Bronfman Centre in Montreal.

Beissel retired in 1996 as distinguished professor emeritus and received Honorary Life Membership from the Concordia University Alumni Association in 2016.

In 2023, his archives were donated to Concordia’s Department of Records Management and Archives. They include manuscripts



HENRY BEISSEL PICTURED WITH WIFE ARLETTE FRANCIÈRE AT CONCORDIA’S 2016 ALUMNI RECOGNITION AWARDS.

of his poetry and plays, as well as essays and novels, translations, correspondence with peers

and publishers, and more. Beissel leaves behind his wife, translator and painter Arlette Francière, BFA 89. ■

Lui Che Woo (1929 - 2024)

Visionary business mogul and global philanthropist

Lui Che Woo, a visionary businessman, philanthropist and advocate for education, passed away on November 7, 2024, at the age of 95.

A 2004 honorary degree recipient, Lui played a pivotal role in fostering cultural exchanges through the Concordia University Hong Kong Foundation. In 2005, he funded 50 scholarships valued at \$10,000 each for deserving students.

Born in Jiangmen, Guangdong Province, China, Lui moved to Hong Kong at the age of four. In

1955, he founded K. Wah Group, growing it into a multinational conglomerate with more than 33,000 employees worldwide.

The company oversaw the production of construction materials, property development and hospitality. His ventures were instrumental in shaping Hong Kong's economic landscape and extending its global future.

In 2015, he founded the Lui Che Woo Prize for World Civilization, an international award recognizing contributions to sustainable development, positive



energy and the betterment of humanity.

"Lui Che Woo's generosity and vision have left an enduring impact on the Concordia

community and beyond," said Paul Chessier, BA 94, GrDip 97, vice-president of Advancement. "We are deeply grateful for his unwavering commitment." ■

Gaston (Beau) Beauregard, L BA 55, February 1, 2025, Saint-Sauveur, Que. He was 90.

Mark Vineberg, S BComm 55, February 4, 2025, Montreal. He was 90.

John Barker McBrearty, L BA 57, October 10, 2024. He was 87.

Charles Baillie, S BA 59, February 17, 2025, Montreal. He was 90.

Stephen Harper, S BA 60, October 23, 2024, Montreal. He was 86.

Garry Fitzpatrick, L BSc 61, November 19, 2024. He was 84.

Errol D. Feldman, S BA 62, October 19, 2024, Hoorn, Netherlands. He was 86.

Elie Dawang, S BA 63, December 29, 2024. He was 90.

Richard Gervais, L BA 63, March 10, 2025, Montreal. He was 83.

Daniel Wainberg, S BA 63, December 7, 2024. He was 89.

Lionel Lustgarten, S BA 64, October 14, 2024, Red Deer, Alta. He was 93.

Bernard Young, L BA 65, September 11, 2024. He was 81.

Morrie M. Cohen, S BA 65, December 2, 2024. He was 88.

Kevin Conroy, S BComm 65, February 14, 2025, Dollard-des-Ormeaux, Que. He was 82.

John (Jack) Carroll, L BA 67, October 3, 2024, Montreal. He was 79.

Carl Emond, L BComm 67, February 13, 2025, Vermont. He was 78.

John Kochanowski, L BSc 67, BA 91, October 7, 2024. He was 78.

Hildburg Schleiermacher, S BA 67, January 17, 2025, Pointe-Claire, Que. She was 106.

Judith (Judy) Appleby, S BA 68, January 5, 2025, Montreal. She was 77.

Jonathan Bradley, S BA 68, S MA 70, October 5, 2024, Montreal. He was 78.

Timothy O. Clark, S BComm 68, October 23, 2024, Montreal. He was 78.

Dorothy Cunningham, S BA 68, February 14, 2025, Mississauga, Ont. She was 94.

Catherine Fichten, S BSc 68, S MA 69, October 31, 2024.

John Sibales, S BComm 68, December 31, 2024. He was 78.

Andrea (Tekker) Blamar, S BA 69, November 3, 2024, Hudson, Que. She was 80.

James A. Evans, S BA 69, December 11, 2024. He was 85.

Keith Moore, S BComm 69, December 25, 2024, Burlington, Ont. He was 77.

Allan Levine, S BComm 70, January 28, 2025, Thornhill, Ont. He was 78.

Ethel Côté (1958-2024)

Dedicated entrepreneur and community organizer

Ethel Côté, GrDip 02, whose professional career in the economic, social, cultural and environmental sectors spanned four decades, passed away on October 16, 2024. She was 66.

The founder of MécènESS, a French-language crowd-funding platform, and co-founder of the Social Enterprise Council of Canada, Côté assisted the development of hundreds of social enterprises across

a wide range of sectors, and mentored hundreds of social entrepreneurs throughout Canada.

Côté, who graduated from Concordia's School of Community and Public Affairs, was the recipient of multiple honours, including the Order of Canada; the Order of Ontario; Champion of Women's Economic Empowerment, UN Women; and Chevalière de la Pléiade, Organisation internationale de la Francophonie. ■



Thomas Harold McNeilly, S BSc 70, December 27, 2024, Lethbridge, Alta. He was 82.

Brian Meeks, S BComm 70, January 15, 2025, Framingham, Mass. He was 79.

Filippo Navarra, L BSc 70, L BComm 74, March 10, 2025. He was 78.

Mark Tobenstein, S BComm 70, October 29, 2024, Dollard-des-Ormeaux, Que.

Maggie Jacobs, S MA 71, MTM 76, November 4, 2024. She was 80.

Bernard King, S BComm 71, October 14, 2024. He was 89.

Jean Kessous, S MTM 72, December 13, 2024, Montreal.

Sheldon Roth, S BComm 72, December 22, 2024.

Audrey Stacey, L BA 74, December 23, 2024, North Vancouver, B.C. She was 78.

Jeannette (Brooker) van Boxel, BFA 75, Cert 86, March 2, 2025, Dollard-des-Ormeaux, Que. She was 87.

Arnold Gluz, BComm 75, January 6, 2025, Montreal.

Nancy Hovey, BA 75, BA 83, December 17, 2024. She was 94.

André Pagotto, BComm 77, January 19, 2025, Montreal. He was 71.

Elaine Whitton, GrDip 77, February 28, 2025, Ottawa. She was 95.

Harold Blond, Cert 78, MA 85, January 14, 2025. He was 79.

Rhoda (Cooperman) Hoffman, BA 78, January 27, 2025. She was 87.

Margaret Kamester, GrDip 78, GrCert 86, March 3, 2025, Kitchener, Ont. She was 95.

Gisele Pharand-Reboux, BComm 78, September 27, 2024, Montreal. She was 92.

John M. Sinclair, GrDip 78, December 18, 2024, Saanich, B.C. He was 71.

Rhona (Morgan) Browne, BA 79, November 28, 2024, Mississauga Ont. She was 95.

Joseph V. Santilli, BEng 79, November 20, 2024, Montreal. He was 70.

Dorothy Kon, BFA 80, December 18, 2024. She was 88.

Dominique Lemieux, BFA 81, November 27, 2024, Sherbrooke, Que. She was 67.

Helen (Paul) Knight, BA 81, February 5, 2025. She was 102.

Wendy Deacur, BA 82, December 18, 2024. She was 67.

Claudette (Beaudin) Pedicelli, BA 82, December 6, 2024, Montreal. She was 87.

Elizabeth (Seale) Shotton, BA 83, October 26, 2024, Montreal. She was 102.

Antoinette (Sydorchuk) Stechysin, BA 85, October 27, 2024. She was 81.

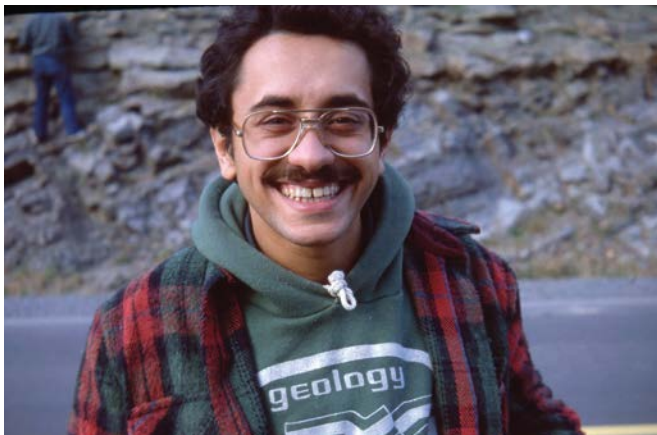
Helene (Simsovicova) Rosenbloom, BA 86, December 18, 2024. She was 96.

Dario Velicogna, BSc 86, December 26, 2024. He was 61.

Marc Lalonde, MA 88, PhD 95, January 1, 2025. He was 63.

Sami Antoun (1957 - 2024)

World-travelling geologist



LEO PIEDMONTÉ, BSc 80

SAMI ANTOUN PICTURED DURING A CONCORDIA GEOLOGY FIELD SCHOOL TRIP TO THE EASTERN TOWNSHIPS, QUEBEC, IN 1979.

Sami Antoun, BSc 81, passed away on June 7, 2024. He was 66.

Born in Alexandria, Egypt, Antoun moved with his family to Canada at age 10, after spending two years in Dublin, Ireland. They eventually settled in Montreal, where he attended Rosemont High School before enrolling at Sir George Williams University, one of Concordia's founding institutions.

Antoun earned a Bachelor of Science in geology, laying the foundation for a career that took him across North and South America for his fieldwork. He later returned to Canada to work on an oil rig off the coast of Newfoundland, before heading west to Calgary.

Antoun is survived by his sisters, Myriam and Lesley, as well as his nieces and nephews. ■

Hubert Clement (1922 - 2025)

Lifelong learner and devoted teacher

Hubert Clement, BComm 58, former train porter and mathematics teacher, passed away on January 23, 2025. He was 103.

Born in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, Clement had parents who emphasized the importance of education from a young age. He and his younger brother Errol were encouraged to pursue their studies. As a Black man in the 1950s, Clement had limited job opportunities. To help pay for his post-secondary



education, he worked as a train porter for the Canadian National Railway. He and Errol enrolled at Sir George



Williams University and graduated with Bachelor of Commerce degrees in 1958.

Clement later completed

his MBA at McGill University and proudly became a Canadian citizen. He dedicated his career to education, joining the Montreal Catholic School Board, where he met his future wife, Euphrasie Le Sann. The two dedicated their lives to teaching the next generation.

Clement is remembered as a devoted father and grandfather who prioritized his family, faith and the pursuit of justice.

He leaves behind his three children, grandchildren and younger brother Errol. ■

Colin McDougall, Cert 88, BA 93, October 7, 2024, Halifax, N.S. He was 80.

Valerie (Ames) Tanguay, BA 89, December 24, 2024, Montreal. She was 79.

Sylvia (Marshall) Wees, GrCert 90, September 28, 2024, Montreal. She was 88.

Margaret Johnson, BA 92, October 4, 2024, Saint-Lambert, Que. She was 93.

Scott Jackson, BComm 99, November 9, 2024. He was 51.

Jay Podilchuk, BA 99, November 18, 2024, London, Ont. He was 50.

Elizabeth (Monahan) Williams, GrDip 03, February 9, 2025, Ottawa. She was 49.

Catherine (Fares) Anderson, BA 04, January 28, 2025, Pointe-Claire, Que. She was 79.

Bette Shulman, BA 04, March 20, 2025, Montreal. She was 98.

Maria-José Raposo, BA 05, Cert 08, December 17, 2024. She was 43.

Lisa Anne LeMesurier, MBA 09, January 24, 2025. She was 53. ■

Finding a voice in art and life

Montreal-based artist Sylvia Safdie is “filled with gratitude” as she reflects on her studies at Concordia’s Faculty of Fine Arts



SYLVIA SAFDIE IS A MONTREAL-BASED ARTIST WHOSE PRACTICE INCLUDES DRAWING, PAINTING, SCULPTURE, PHOTOGRAPHY, INSTALLATION AND VIDEO. HER UPCOMING SOLO EXHIBITION AT THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF CANADA OPENS IN MAY 2026.

SYLVIA SAFDIE, BFA 75

Fifty years ago, I was part of Concordia’s first graduating class. Looking back on the extraordinary education and experiences I gained studying in the Faculty of Fine Arts, I am filled with gratitude.

In 1966, I had the privilege of accompanying my then-husband Morris Charney on a year-long trip to Europe for his research in urban design. It was an exhilarating, stimulating time, yet upon returning home, I realized I had to find my own voice.

Three years later, just after my son Dov was born, I enrolled in the evening fine-arts program at Sir George Williams University, one of Concordia’s founding institutions. Those years were transformative. A group of us would often stay late after class, critiquing each other’s works. Sometimes a teacher would drop in and we’d end up having long conversations.

I was petrified to attend my first studio class, convinced that my classmates were more experienced. The course was taught by Leah Sherman

[BA 46], an extraordinary educator who, along with Alfred Pinsky, founded what would later become Concordia’s Faculty of Fine Arts.

Our first assignment was to “activate a surface.” Leah Sherman spread an array of art materials across a table and explained that the minute we made a mark on a page, we were activating and transforming it. I don’t know what motivated me, but I created marks by folding and creasing the paper. When Leah Sherman saw my work, her enthusiasm overwhelmed me. Her course became a critical foundation for me.

In Patrick Lansley’s drawing course, we primarily drew the model. One day, he took us to McGill University’s Redpath Museum to draw. The preserved organisms and bone structures fascinated me.

At that time, I had just given birth to my daughter Maya and would take her in her pram, spending hours drawing at the museum. It was an inspiring atmosphere, and it was exciting to work on something that I had chosen and that felt personal to me.

At the end of the term, after showing Patrick Lansley my coursework

portfolio, I showed him my series of drawings from the Redpath Museum. He was then the curator of Concordia’s art gallery in the Hall Building. To my surprise, he invited me and another student to exhibit our work there.

He asked about my plans after graduation, and I told him I wanted to teach art. “Don’t ever teach,” he said. “It will burn you out. You are an artist — embrace it.” A couple of weeks later, when I was filling out forms to renew my passport, I wrote “artist” as my profession.

Alfred Pinsky, a walking encyclopedia of modern and contemporary art, opened my eyes to a whole new world. I respected him immensely. His course was based on Heinrich Wölfflin’s book *Principles of Art History*, in which the concept of “painterly” versus “linear” was developed. I can never hear those words without thinking of Alfred Pinsky. One day, I mustered the courage to ask for his feedback on my work. He studied it for what felt like an eternity, then finally said, “Continue working. It’s worth it.”

Another great influence was Stanley Horner, also a founding member of the Department of Fine Arts and head of the Department of Art Education. His passion for teaching was contagious.

In 1972, while still a night student, I was offered a job at Dawson College after a teacher left on short notice. I had no experience teaching and was terrified, but I accepted. Teaching during the day while studying at night was challenging, yet incredibly rewarding. The two experiences fed into each other, enriching my understanding of both art and education.

While I loved teaching and the dynamic interaction with the students, I eventually chose to focus entirely on my art practice. ■



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